JOHN BULL

Vol. XVI. No. 401 | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1914. | ONE PENNY

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

3828[illegible]

For meaning of this No. see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

PLEASE NOTE!

"BULLETS"

WILL BE FOUND

ON

PAGES

28 AND 31

IN THE OLD DAYS

One could have as good a shave as is possible to-day, the Hollow-ground Blade predominating then as it does now. The first Safety Razor the "STAR," was placed on the market in 1875, the invention of a young cutler who had cut his features rather considerably, with an old-style razor. Many "safeties" have followed since, mostly with "wafer" blades which require replacing after a few shaves. "AS THE BLADE, SO THE SHAVE." With the "STAR," "THE VALUE IS IN THE BLADE." It lasts for years and the first cost is the last.

Lists of Sets from 5/6 to £5.

7/6 for Set as illustrated with silver-plated Frame and Handle.

Of all High-Class Cutlers,

or MARKT & CO. (Ldn.), Ltd.,

98/100, Clerkenwell Road, LONDON, E.C.

BULLETS COMPETITORS

Read this glowing testimony from MR. H. VERNON BLAKE, of Bridgwater, who, a fortnight ago, won a £500 "Bullets" prize for the clever line—

Example: GOLDEN RULE.
Bullet: LEND EAR ONLY.

MR. VERNON BLAKE writes:

"I can say with all honesty that I owe my £500 success to the good old 'C.J.'"

"THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL," familiarly known as the "C.J." is on sale at all Smith's, Wyman's and other Books alls. Every Wednesday One Penny.

"THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL" contains:
ADVICE — COST — 1d.
which may bring a
PRIZE — WORTH — £500

ASK FOR A COPY TO-DAY. It contains advice re this week's "Bullets."

FIRST READ THIS.
If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

John Bull
ENTRANCE FORM.

ANOTHER ONE WEEK CONTEST

Matches to be played Saturday, Feb. 14th.

HOME	AWAY.	DRAW.	HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM.
			Bradford City	v.	Tottenham
			Blackburn Rovers	v.	Manchester City
			Everton	v.	Sheffield United
			W. Bromwich A.	v.	Middlesbro'
			Sheffield Wed.	v.	Aston Villa
			Chelsea	v.	Newcastle United
			Manchester U.	v.	Burnley
			Grimsby Town	v.	Bury
			Birmingham	v.	Barnsley
			Bristol City	v.	Hull City
			Leeds City	v.	Wolverhampton W.
			Glossop	v.	Notts County
			Stockport	v.	Bradford
			Southampton	v.	West Ham
			Plymouth Argyle	v.	Queen's Park R.
			Norwich City	v.	Exeter City
			Gillingham	v.	Millwall
			Watford	v.	Cardiff City
			Coventry City	v.	Swindon
			Southend	v.	Brighton & Hove

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

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Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

READ RULES CAREFULLY.

NOTE METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

To safeguard the interests of our competitors we have adopted the following new rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win, put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "John Bull, 11 28, Floral Street, Covent Garden London, W.C.," mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Football Contest. No. 11, so as to reach us not later than Friday, February 13th.

3. The sum of £1,500 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results, as published in the *Sporting Life*, of all the matches given played to a finish on February 14th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £500 will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the sum of £150 to the competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number; and £50 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £1,500, or the £500 or £150, the *Mary Bull* prize will be awarded to the sender of the *next* most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £1,500 or £500 prizes being won, the £150 prize will, of course, not be awarded. The £50 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £1,500, the £500 or the contingent prize of £150, as well as the special £50 mauve coupon Prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

8. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H	A	D	TEAMS	H	A	D	TEAMS
			Bradford C. v. Tottenham				Leeds City v. Wolves.
			Blackburn R. v. Manch'ter C.				Glossop v. Notts County
			Everton v. Sheffield United				Stockport v. Bradford
			W. Bromwich A. v. Middlesb'				Southampton v. West Ham
			Sheffield W. v. Aston Villa				Plymouth A. v. Q.P.R. Rangers
			Chelsea v. Newcastle Un.				Norwich C. v. Exeter C.
			Manchester U. v. Burnley				Gillingham v. Millwall
			Grimsby Town v. Bury				Watford v. Cardiff City
			Birmingham v. Barnsley				Coventry City v. Swindon
			Bristol City v. Hull City				Southend v. Brighton & H.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XVI. No. 401. Week ending Saturday, February 7th, 1914. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All FINANCIAL, INSURANCE *and* SPORTING *inquiries should be addressed to the* CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C. *All other communications should be addressed to* 93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Adams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for JAN. 31st, 1914. bearing on its Cover the Number 238,442.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The £10 reward offered for the copy of JOHN BULL, dated January 24th, bearing the number 238,304, has been paid to Mr. H. A. C. Browne, 7, Fawe Park Road, Putney, who duly forwarded the required issue.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Business Government League.

Look out. It is coming!

The Rector!

We have no desire to pursue further Prebendary Webster, to whose morbid mind we called attention last week; but we cannot refrain from referring to a remarkable interview with the rev. gentleman which appeared in the *Daily News* on the eve of the publication of our article. After repeating the statement that the sight of "open dresses," *in the day time*, "disturbs" him, Prebendary says: "At dinner parties there isn't the same objection, *for you're prepared for it.*" We, with difficulty, refrain from speculation upon the inner meaning of this parable, and will simply quote one more passage: "One can avoid unpleasant passages (in books) by skipping them." We simply ask—how do you know when to begin to skip, and when to stop? Has the Prebendary ever heard of the lady who, in complimenting Dr. Johnson on the completion of his dictionary, complained that there were many indecent words in it—to receive the reply, "Madam, you have certainly had a good look"?

Ramsay's Luck.

Ramsay has always been in luck; but never did his protecting star serve him better than at the recent Labour Conference. Just when the delegates were telling him and Keir Hardie what they thought of their parliamentary antics, up came the South African Deportation, and, in a jiffy, Ramsay and Keir—two dour Scots!—were on it with heroic resolutions. Needless to say, they had little difficulty in spoofing the simple-minded delegates.

More Bluff.

And when Parliament meets, he will get another fine opportunity. Not only will he move amendments to the Address and otherwise boom the South African crisis—heedless of all consequences to the much applauded Union—but there are the Navy Estimates. And there he will have the chance of a life-time. Knowing that they *must* pass (being assured of the support of the Opposition) he will make a theatrical demonstration against them—"leading" the whole of his men into the Lobby "agin' the Government." And then he will go back to his delegates and say, "See what a good boy I have been." *What* a game it is!

D.V.

Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P. for Coventry, who has fallen out with his Committee on the subject of the Navy and other questions, has issued this Press message:—

> Please inform those whom it may concern that I intend, God willing, to offer myself as Independent candidate next Parliamentary election for Coventry.

Mr. Mason's assumption that the Almighty takes a direct interest in his political intentions is delicious. But he will find that the divine blessing will, in the end, shine upon the nation with the best ships and arms.

Naval Economy.

Here is an item which will rejoice the heart of Mr. Hector Morison, M.P., and his fellow Little Navygators (other papers please, as usual, annex that phrase). Until recently the battle-cruiser *Lion* had a wooden top to her conning tower instead of the usual armour plate, and the captain's bridge is still made of wood; and this ship has been in commission three years, and has visited German waters! Shade of Nelson!

"Bob" for Hoxton.

Following an enthusiastic vote of confidence—with musical honours—by the Hoxton Conservative and Unionist Association, Mr. Sievier is holding a public meeting of his future constituents. That is a bold way of putting it; but, if you do not believe us, ask Dr. Addison, M.P.

The Dead Hand!

So long as the pastor of the Methodist chapel at Redruth abstains "from Party politics" he enjoys the income of certain shares in the business of the late Mr. E. Trounson, under the provisions of that gentleman's will. Other testators, please copy.

Another Great ONE WEEK Football Contest. £1,500 for a Coupon. See page 31.

Barred Barristers.

The refusal of the Surrey and South London Sessions Bar Mess to admit a coloured barrister to their society has served to direct attention to the social and professional formalities which surround the right to practise at the Bar of England. In theory, any man who has paid certain fees, eaten a number of dinners, passed sundry examinations, and been duly "called" to the Bar, is entitled to be heard in any Court in the land, provided he is "briefed" in accordance with certain recognised rules of professional decorum. In practice, however, the matter is by no means so simple, social intercourse among barristers having led to the formulation of all manner of restrictive enactments to which professional solidarity has lent binding force. The broad result has been to tie certain barristers to particular courts or areas, and thus ease the general competition within the profession; but there can be little doubt that in some instances men have been virtually shut out from practice in circumstances of considerable hardship. The matter is not devoid of public interest, and we are glad to note that the decision of the Surrey and South London Bar Mess is likely to be arbitrated upon by the Attorney-General.

Plain Truth.

The International Convention for Safety at Sea is at present in the realm of pious intention, and everything will obviously depend upon the way in which its manifold provisions and suggestions are carried into effect. It is noteworthy that the more salient of the precautionary items are precisely those which, for years past, we have, in season and out of season, urged upon our own recalcitrant "Board" of Trade. It remains to be seen whether the force of a pledged agreement can effect what an overwhelming moral obligation has so far failed to achieve. Meanwhile, in the name of common decency, let us have done with nauseating cant about "the honour due to Great Britain for her part in the Convention." Everyone knows that it needed a *Titanic* disaster to arouse Ministers to a glimmering sense of their responsibility in such matters, and it is ill prating of "honour" while the memory of that crime is fresh in broken hearts and darkened homes.

£2,000 for a Font Cover.

What is described as the "munificent gift" of Mr. Somers Clarke, of Brighton, is now being erected in Chichester Cathedral—to wit, a richly-carved font cover of Austrian oak, 43 ft. high, at an estimated cost of £2,000. "Lord of Thy mercy," will presently read an inscription upon it, "remember Somers Clarke, who designed and gave . . . this." When the Lord in His mercy does remember Somers Clarke, he will want to know why, instead of wasting £2,000 on this useless decoration, he didn't spend the money in administering to the wants of the sick and needy in and about Chichester; wherefore Somers Clarke had better think out all his excuses beforehand, for he will need a great many more than will probably occur to him on the spot.

An Impossible Position.

The ultimatum from the London master-builders, chronicled in proper form and duly reported to their employees, was couched in terms which are the negation of the whole spirit of Trades Unionism. The time has long since passed when men might be expected to bind themselves by agreement to abstain from effective protest against the employment of non-Union labour. "A man may leave his employment for any reason, for no reason, or for a bad reason," declared Lord Macnaghten in a notable case. For weal or for woe, this is the settled basis upon which present-day industrial negotiation must proceed.

The Shame of It.

An "Annual Return of Deaths From Starvation" is a cynical commentary upon the boasted amenities of civilised government. Yet such is the short title of a recent Local Government Board publication reeking with horrible statistics of "man's inhumanity to man." The figures are luridly illumined with brief epitomes of a few of the hidden tragedies disclosed too late to the Poor Law officials during 1913. A single excerpt will suffice:—

> General tuberculosis, accelerated by want, caused the death of "M. E.," a woman, aged thirty-seven, who died at Wandsworth on August 9th. This woman was found on Lower Putney Common ill, destitute and starving. Brought to St. James' Infirmary on the 3rd of August and died on the 9th of August.

And her death was reported to Relieving Officers who had never heard of the poor creature before. It was chronicled in proper form and duly reported to the L.G.B. And now it neatly figures in a blue book that few will read and which will presently be tied up in pretty red tape and buried fathoms deep in the lumber receptacles of Whitehall!

Where Are They Now?

While professing no love for the negro "bruiser," we have all along contended that much of the popular prejudice against Mistah Jack Johnson was due to misconception as to the nature of his alleged offences against United States law. In this connection, a rather neat point was made by the black man's counsel in the course of recent proceedings at Chicago. Johnson, he declared, was being persecuted under a "White Slave" law which was never intended to apply to such cases as his, while there was at that moment at large in Chicago city a real "trafficker" who was making an income of £20,000 a year from his hateful trade. The figure may be fabulous, but it is the fact that matters. We have made the same point with reference to our own White Slave Act, and we are still convinced that not one of the gilded vampires, the portrayal of whose depravity induced the Commons to prescribe the lash, has yet felt its sting.

A Worrying Prospect.

Most Englishmen will appreciate the aim of Sir Oliver Lodge, who has recently been devoting some attention to climatic experiments with a view to checking the vagaries of the weather. While realising that there is plenty of room for improvement upon existing meteorological conditions, we yet confess to certain misgivings as we read of the possibility of producing rain-storms by the simple discharge of an electric current into a cloudy atmosphere. It is, at any rate, consoling to learn that the cost of such feats is still very considerable, and that the day is yet far distant when it will be possible for any meddlesome misanthropist to go out into his back garden and make it rain, snow or hail to his black heart's delight. Steady, Sir Oliver, please!

The High Hand at Rye.

Charles James Balcomb, a Rye School Attendance Officer, is a type of official far too common. Though he well knew that the father of Edith Masters had a doctor's certificate that the child would not be fit for school until February at least, and though he had himself sent the father a notice to appear at a meeting of School Managers, he summoned him before the meeting was held and tried to get a conviction for "not sending his child to school." No wonder the Mayor, in contemptuously kicking the summons out of court, described the procedure of the bunkered Balcomb as "high-handed." It was downright persecution.

Please Note "Bullets" Will Be Found on page 28 This Week.

Costs Question Again.

Once again the relation of costs to the event in the recent prosecution of a private citizen by a public body is raised in the case of Mr. Battlebury, of Hackney. The London County Council summoned Mr. Battlebury, a local tradesman, for keeping carriages without licences, though they were, in fact, vans used for the sole and legitimate purposes of his business. He was put to considerable legal expenses and loss of time to defend the summons, which the magistrate, Mr. Chester Jones, dismissed; but when costs were applied for on his behalf Mr. Jones would grant only £3 3s., and then with reluctance, for he made the remark that he did not like granting costs against a public body. To us this magisterial attitude is utterly inexplicable. Here is a business man annoyed, harassed, and brought into court at great expense by a public authority, obviously as an experimental case, but without the slightest justification in law or common sense; when they lose the magistrate who decides against them either refuses to give costs at all or is reluctant to the point of apology to give a small proportion of those incurred—whereas, if the public body had won, the poor beggar of a defendant would have had to foot a bill a yard long. He was an observant man who said the law smiles in yer face while it picks yer pocket.

"A Duly Qualified Engineer."

Whin th' mimbers iv th' Edenderry No. 3 Disthrict Council assimbled th' other day f'r business the Chairman iv th' same, Misther Herbert, sthated he had dhrawn up an adverthisement f'r a duly qualified ingineer at a salarey iv £15 a year, to include thravelling an' all other ixpinses iv the post, a bond wid two solvent securithies in £50 being an issintial fature iv the appointment. We object to such prodigal squandering of public funds. Instead of the Edenderry Council meekly agreeing to the advertisement, "which the Clerk was directed to issue," they should have carried an amendment to reduce the salary by as much as ninepence. This spendthrift policy on the part of Irish local authorities threatens to bring the country to ruin. With the example of Edenderry before them, what is to prevent the coming Irish Parliament from commencing its wild career by appointing a Speaker at a salary of thirty shillings a week and a penny an hour overtime? We have not heard of anything more disgraceful for days.

Another Panel Doctor.

As we have frequently shown, there is a sort of panel doctor who, having taken on Mr. Lloyd George's contract job, does not scruple to play the most contemptible tricks on the people he has accepted as patients. Dr. Walsh Benson, of Middlesbrough, is the latest of this preposterous kidney. Until he was pulled sharp by the local Insurance Committee, his little game was to sign prescription forms in blank, and employ a chemist who saw patients on his behalf and filled in the prescriptions. The British Medical Council are in the habit of kicking up a lot of dust when medical men infringe the standard of professional conduct by advertising, or assisting "unqualified" bone experts; what have they to say of the shady tricks of Dr. Walsh Benson? If his isn't gross professional misconduct, we should like to know what is.

"Montreal's Worst Christmas."

That is how a Salvation Army captain in Montreal describes the sort of festive season they have been having in Quebec's capital. Not fewer than 16,000 Christmas dinners were supplied through the Salvation Army alone to the needy of the city. Who goes to Montreal?

Rough Luck.

After twenty-five years of married life, during which, in the words of Judge Atherley Jones, she had been treated "with the greatest liberality and even generosity," Mrs. J. A. Holdsworth divorced her husband. The lady seems to have been considerably indebted to a Mrs. Smythe, a South Kensington dressmaker, who, possibly fearing some diminution of security, began at this juncture to press for payment. Mrs. Holdsworth, however, failed to discharge her obligations, and the dressmaker accordingly sued the divorced husband for the cost of goods supplied to his former wife. It then transpired that throughout their lengthy matrimonial experiment, Mr. Holdsworth had made his wife a personal allowance of £100 a month, but it was contended by the lady that this sum was not intended to cover her dresses, for which, on many occasions, he had given her separate cheques. This excess of conjugal generosity proved the poor man's undoing, the Judge apparently holding that, having paid so much, he might pay a little more. Judgment was entered against the ex-husband, with costs. We are a little at a loss to appreciate his Honour's decision, in view of the well-known rule of law that a husband who has given his wife no authority to pledge his credit is immune from liability for her debts on proof of a reasonable allowance.

Just Impediments.

Concerned for the fate of her love-sick daughter, a Cumberland mother has taken the unusual course of issuing a general "forbidding of the banns" by advertisement in the local newspapers. Clergymen and ministers of all denominations are formally warned that should they solemnise holy matrimony between this eighteen-year-old girl and any male person whatsoever they will have offered a gross affront to her devoted parents. Here, however, is the limit of the terrors which maternal ire may suggest, and should the knot be tied the maiden and her swain will be one flesh in the eyes of the law till death (or the divorce court) shall them part. By the law of England a *man* may marry at 14 and a *woman* at 12, with or without parental approval. In view of the generally unsatisfactory nature of boy and girl unions, the age limit might well be raised from its present ridiculous level.

A Sane Departure.

We are glad that the Council of the National Rifle Association have determined to brave the wrath of the Sabbatarians and to throw open their Bisley ranges for Sunday practice. Their decision comes in response to an unmistakable demand, and will doubtless be received with intense satisfaction by many who have hitherto found it difficult to reconcile the claims of business with the demands of military training. With those who do not wish to shoot on Sundays the change involves no interference, while if a man be so minded he can find plenty of time to pray according to his faith or fancy, and thereafter to fit himself to defend his altars and his home.

Derby Police Again.

Apropos of our recent remarks with reference to the Derby Police, are the Watch Committee aware that a profit is made out of the catering for prisoners who are apprehended daily? Also that one of the "Cotton Wool" brigade does the catering? Are they also aware that another member of the "Cotton Wool" brigade recently got a young girl into trouble and no notice was taken of the affair; while another constable who did not belong to the favoured set got slightly inebriated and was reduced 6s. a week in his pay?

Once Again We Offer £50 for a Mauve Coupon. See page 31.

Practical Propositions.

In the existing state of the law, the conveyance of a house or a plot of land is a matter of fearsome complexity, amid which the uninstructed layman gropes in despair. Pending the consummation of the Chancellor's scheme for "taking the land from the lawyers," Lord Haldane will introduce two workmanlike measures calculated to mitigate the existing confusion. Some idea of the intricacy of existing rules of transfer may be gathered from the fact that no less than eighty-two skilfully drawn clauses embody the modest reforms proposed in the first of these Bills. And yet there seems to be no earthly reason why the transfer of land or house property should not be as easily effected as that of shares in a joint stock company or, if the analogy be imperfect, of a vessel registered at Lloyd's. A Business Government would make a clean sweep of the myriad bothersome statutes which now clog and impede dealings in land, to the detriment of industry and to the injury of labour. It may be noted that it is not the House of Lords so much as the House of Lawyers which at present blocks this pressing reform.

"Turned a Rank Atheist."

"My only son has turned a rank atheist," says a reader who encloses a 5s. postal order for some poor person, "and is obsessed with the desire to make everyone his way of thinking. He says religion has gone on for 2,000 years, and someone ought to have the pluck to finish it up. He wants to go to the theatres and large buildings and shout out that religion is a farce. and 'If there be a God, let him strike me blind'! He says no one has dared to do it, and when people saw that nothing happened they would all be atheists. He says if I don't let him say it he will go mad. Could you advise me what to do? I should be deeply grateful." It seems to be a case for the doctor—just in the same way as *religious* fanaticism is. In the meantime, we scarcely know what to do with that postal order. We think we had better buy the boy a good dose of cooling spring medicine.

Bread, Water and Stones.

There is a thoroughly conscienceless aspect about a Poor Law Regulation which demands that a workhouse casual shall be required to break 10 cwt. of stones to sieve size on a breakfast diet of bread and water! The average tramp is certainly not a protégé of ours, but there is such a thing as humanity, and while tramps are in a workhouse, and not in gaol, they ought to be treated as men. With what hope in their hearts, with what vigour in their limbs, can famished outcasts face their taskwork when the only filling for their bellies is dry bread and water? This system is in force at Macclesfield workhouse, and a few days ago the local magistrates sent a casual there to seven days' imprisonment because he refused to break his 10 cwt. of stones on such a diet. One thing is certain—he will not fare worse in gaol.

The Lie that Kills.

Lured by some hollow tale of "the Golden West," Mrs. Rose Sheard, the wife of a sick labourer in Bethnal Green, emigrated to Canada with her baby, hoping there to find means of support, with a possible margin for remittance to her ailing husband. Instead, her radiant hopes proved insubstantial as a dream, and after suffering cruel privation and bitter want she was fain to turn home again. The child, weakened by lack of nourishment, suffered pitifully on a rough homeward voyage. It died soon after the mother reached London. The harrowing story was told to the coroner at the consequent inquest. Emigrants, beware!

"Black Diamonds Up Again."

Half a hundred readers have been so deeply stirred by our recent remarks under this heading that they have risen as one man and started shying all the largest lumps at us. "Why," shouts one, "is there 'a painful lack of conscience in the jewel business'? Is the coal trade exempt from the law of supply and demand?" It is not; but the artificial fixing of prices at the first snap of winter has no more to do with the law of supply and demand than a sheep's trotter has to do with the man in the moon. If frost sets in, say, on a Sunday night and twenty of the biggest coal merchants get up early on Monday morning and agree to put up prices, it is absurdity, also humbug, to pretend that those prices are fixed by the law of supply and demand. Then we are told that "competition is much too keen to allow of exorbitant prices"; and this in face of the fact that, even before the strike, coal selling at 10s. a ton at the pit's mouth was being retailed to working people in London at 1s. 10d. and 2s. a cwt.! Even a dealer in black diamonds might occasionally acknowledge the truth.

Vicar and Land Tax.

The Rev. J. F. H. Parker, Vicar of Bleasdale, Lancashire, asks us "to kindly expose the gross injustice of the Georgian land scheme." On the whole, perhaps the best thing we can do is to let him expose it himself. He says he happens to have as part of his glebe six acres of pasture in the little town of Longridge, near Preston, until a few years ago in the occupation of one family for about 40 years. The supply of houses generally exceeding the demand at Longridge, no application has ever been made for the land as a building site. Imagine, therefore, the vicar's surprise on receiving notice from the district land valuer a few weeks since that its provisional valuation was £2,827, which at a ha'penny in the £ means a tax of £5 17s. 9d., while the yearly rent is only £20. "To make the matter worse the tax is also retrospective." On the facts, the vicar has our sympathy; we have no doubt he is now able to appreciate fully the severe references to taxgatherers contained in the Bible, and should be eloquent upon such texts.

Rough on the T.T.'s.

Almost every week brings a scientific "shocker" in the shape of some startling and arresting statement upon topics which are *caviare* to the general. Dr. McHaffie, of South Shields, now assures us that *delirium tremens* is by no means necessarily confined to persons afflicted with a troublesome thirst, but that even teetotalers are not immune from its attack. "It is a well-known fact," he declares, "that *delirium tremens* may occur in a teetotaler after an accident." We might be tempted to inquire the nature of such accidents but for the fact that the learned medico's dictum was delivered at an inquest, and he can therefore hardly be suspected of a humorous *double entendre*. As it is, we can only extend our respectful condolences to the aqua puritan contingent as they are robbed, one by one, of their cherished immunities by the ruthless hand of science. Dame Nature appears to be woefully lacking in nice moral discrimination.

The Latest.

How we are going it, to be sure! Here, again, is the Largest Circulation in Bouverie Street allowing one of its contributors to express his ideas on "A Business Army" as an alternative to Conscription. At this rate of travel, we shall soon have somebody expressing his profound thoughts in the *Methodist Recorder* on a Business Navy as an alternative to the skinning of the native Briton for German sausage.

£1,500 To Be Won. Great New ONE WEEK Football Contest. See page 31.

Like His Cheek!

There are at the moment two separate and distinct Land policies "before the country." One, fathered by the Chancellor and sponsored by the Premier, promises to form the staple theme of Radical orations for many a day to come. The other, somewhat shyer than its mate, was recently put through its paces at the Holloway Empire by Mr. Walter Long. Acute observers may notice that there is a marked similarity between the two Party bantlings, and Mr. Long expressed a hope that the twain might "grow in beauty side by side and fill one home with glee," or, to drop metaphor, that the Land problem might come to be regarded as an "uncontroversial" question. In plain English, we understand the right honourable gentleman to suggest that, the Government having stumbled upon what looks like a promising policy, it is only fair that the Tories should come in on equal terms and go halves in any credit which may accrue. We fancy we can *hear* the Chancellor's smile.

Butter is Better.

We congratulate the Poor Law Guardians of Pontefract, who have resisted an insidious proposal to "economise" by the substitution of margarine for butter in the regimen of workhouse inmates. Margarine of good quality may, for aught we know, be an unexceptionable article of diet, but popular prejudice inside and outside poor law institutions runs in favour of butter as a relish for bread, and the Guardians of Pontefract have done well to repudiate the notion, now happily on the wane, that anything will do for "paupers" as long as it is cheap. May their shadows, therefore, never grow less, and may they enjoy the means to spread their own butter thick for many a year to come. We note, by the way, that the margarine proposal was advanced by a local clergyman!

A Good Work.

It is understood that, in relinquishing his duties as Permanent Under-Secretary at the War Office, Sir Edward Ward does not propose to sever his connection with the Consultative Committee on Ex-Soldiers, for the inception of which body he was mainly responsible. The work of this Committee is little in the public eye, but its efforts have been painstaking, and there is no doubt that a substantial measure of good has been achieved. Even so, much remains to be done, and the hapless condition of many who have borne an active share in the nation's military exploits is a reproach to the conscience of the community. We are happy to learn that this problem is engaging the personal attention of the Minister for War. Colonel Seely has found his right niche.

Ipse Dixit.

Mr. Hedderwick, the North London Magistrate, is apparently a fine judge of a chicken run. "Really," he exclaimed to a mother a few days ago, when two girls of 16 and 17 were charged before him with stealing, "the ideas of parental duty of some of the people who come before me are below the standard set up by cocks and hens"; and, curiously enough, nobody in court had the courage to resent this as a fowl aspersion.

From Hen-run to Farmyard.

From the hen-run to the farmyard is not a far cry; hence we have Mr. Runciman, the Minister of Agriculture, telling a gathering of Nottingham farmers that he is glad he is out of the Education Office, with its sectarian squabbles, and into the Agricultural Office. "Thank heavens," he exclaimed, "cows and swine have no religion." They have watery milk and hog cholera, however, and these are nearly as bad.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

LOOKING BACKWARDS.

[The latest feminine fad is to have the bare back photographed.]

The ladies of this generation
Are certainly not very shy,
Their skirts are much shorter
Than some think they oughter
Be, judging by modesty's eye.
Alack! their last manifestation
Has caused Mrs. Grundy to grunt:—
Their up-to-date MODE *is*
The baring of bodies
And bringing their back to the front!

From neck down to waistline, or lower,
Their lily-like skins they expose
And, scorning to make up,
They brazenly take up
A graceful (or otherwise) pose:
The photograph artist may cower
And blush as the trigger is pressed,
But, barring a shiver,
His clients don't quiver—
They rather like being undressed!

The question my mind is disturbing
Is: Where is this thing going to end?
Now girls uncncumber
Their regions called lumbar
They'll probably—heaven forfend!
Fellow-men, are there no ways of curbing
This rage for discarding attire?
Or must we submit to
The craze, and so sit, too,
Warmed by the photographer's fire?

THE WEEK'S "BISCUIT."

["Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. Below we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.]

For informing an audience that: "It is the influence and guidance of the legal profession which in the end shapes national policy."

LORD HALDANE

Takes the Biscuit.

OUR FIRST NUMBER.

AND WHAT PRICE A NEWSAGENT PLACED UPON IT.

We have received the following interesting letter from Mr. S. W. Winfield, Newsagent, of Western Road, Mickleover, Derby:—

SIR,—The following incident may interest you and your readers: Amongst a number of second-hand books, periodicals, etc., recently displayed in my shop window at Derby, I gave prominence to a copy of JOHN BULL, dated Saturday, June 9th, 1905 (of course the first copy), and attached a price ticket—"Now worth 20s." Being the *first* copy of JOHN BULL, you will be surprised at the number of people that called to "have a look at it." Amongst my customers a vicar and curate from a neighbouring church were particularly interested in it (the curate, by-the-bye, being an occasional reader of JOHN BULL). He was very much "struck" with your "First Open Letter" to His Majesty King Edward the Seventh, and having a weakness (like myself) for collecting No. 1 of most periodicals, he sadly wanted me to reduce my price to "a few shillings." Of course I could not do it, and he seemed very crestfallen. No. 1 now lies in front of me, together with No. 398. "The question is: That this paper be now read a first time? The Ayes have it. Second reading: This day week, June 16th (1905)." Your thousands of readers, Sir, are glad it passed its "Third" and became "Law"—and "Good luck to it!"

Praise and Nothing but Praise for the "John Bull" Pen. Coupon on page iii. of cover.

KRUGER'S PROPHECY FULFILLED.

EXPORTS, IMPORTS, AND DEPORTS—THE NEW ECONOMIC SCIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

Our readers do not need to be reminded that we have always treated official statistics of Exports and Imports with cynical indifference—regarding them simply as more or less haphazard records of the accidents of commerce, and as reflecting no true light upon the prosperity of the nation. Our test is, and always will be, not what we buy from or sell in foreign markets, but what we *consume* and otherwise spend upon ourselves. However, be that as it may, all schools of economics, as they are called, have hitherto been more or less agreed that their theories should be confined to the ordinary things of commerce—food, raw material, manufactures, etc.; and although beset on every hand with paradox and anachronism, there has been a tacit consent to abandon all first principles where undesirable *live* imports are concerned—whether in the shape of cattle or humanity. Hitherto, however, there has been a clear understanding that the cattle must be diseased and the human beings either destitute or physically unfit. But now we are to have a new policy—Deports.

THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT.

And there is something quite poetic about the first consignment. It comes from South Africa, and is one of the first fruits of that glorious Constitution which the wily Boers spoofed the Imperial Government into granting almost before Boer swords were cleaned of British blood, and the grass had grown over the graves of the British dead. How often have we warned the public that all is not well with South Africa! How often have we warned it against our "Brother Boer"! Look at our Cartoon this week—the fulfilment of the prophecy of old Kruger to "sweep the English into the sea"—and reflect. But what was the use of warnings? The parrot cry of "Democracy," which *all* Parties now ape, was the curse. The war was over; the Boers were reconciled to our rule; they had been deprived of their farms and homesteads and their nationality; their sons, their fathers, their brothers, and in many cases even their mothers and their sisters, lay rotting in the ground—but, at heart, they loved us dearly; they wanted to come into our Empire, to live under our flag; all the old spirit of that wondrous "treck" which founded their little States had suddenly died away; they were consumed with a burning desire to be full-blown British subjects! And so we gave them a Constitution, based upon the latest model, and we sent them a brand-new Governor-General, with a great name, to represent the majesty of the King and his Empire! Poor Lord Gladstone! He soon discovered that he had been sacrificed to the exigencies of the Party game, and that he had been given the toughest job ever entrusted to a British Governor. Some day history will do him justice. We were all misled at first, but as the truth is dawning on us we begin to realise the skill, the diplomacy and the patience with which he has grappled with a hopeless task. What would have happened had his post been filled by Lord Kitchener? Do you know? We should, by now, have cancelled the South African Constitution and made the Transvaal and the Orange Free State (you remember that at the date of the Union the "Orange River Colony" insisted on having its old name back) a Crown Colony. But we digress. All the Radical organs yelled with joy at this latest "triumph of Democracy"; they called upon us to fall on Botha's neck, and proclaim him our new ally. And the Tory Press claimed a share in the glory of the great achievement. And contemporary historians put on their spectacles and sat down and wrote a chapter on this latest manifestation of the genius of our race for colonisation and empire-building!

But now listen to the Radical press. We will take its most virile organ—*Reynolds's*. This is its heading last Sunday to a cartoon depicting Botha with one foot on the neck of the prostrate form of Labour, and the point of a bayonet at its face: "The dastardly outrage perpetrated on organised Labour in South Africa by Botha and the gang of Hoggenheimer hirelings supporting him is execrated and condemned by the whole Democratic Press of Great Britain. The Tory Press, on the contrary, are frankly jubilant at this brutal, tyrannous, and unconstitutional attempt to crush Trade Unionism under the iron heel of armed violence." And the same view is enforced in a leading article. But what is to be done? The shibboleth of Free Government is insuperable. Unless the deportation was sanctioned by Lord Gladstone; unless it has involved the expenditure of Imperial funds; unless Imperial troops have been requisitioned—we are told Parliament can do nothing! But the Labour M.P.s will make a "protest"; they will "fix the responsibility on the right shoulders." Even the *Daily Express* seriously tells us that the deported men, now on the high sea, "declare that immediately on their arrival in England they will *see the Chairman of the British Labour Party!* That means—Ramsay!

IF THERE *WERE* A LABOUR PARTY!

Of course if there really *were* a Labour Party what a time it would have! It would, first of all, take Botha at his word, assume that the deported men are dangerous and undesirable, and insist upon their being sent back, under the provisions of the Aliens Act—which they would, if necessary, amend by a short clause extending its provisions to any persons deported from colonial states. It could also take the British Government at its word, assume that Larkin (poor old Jim!) is the dangerous creature he was painted, and get him deported—to South Africa! But, of course, it will do nothing except talk. Ramsay will look up one of those old books on Constitutional Government which he used to dictate from when he was a (non-unionist) school teacher, and, in his cold, calculating style—with tongue in cheek—will "voice the views of the Labour Party," and, confident that any censure of the Government or Lord Gladstone for allowing the deportations would be resisted by the Opposition, possibly go to the length of moving an "official" Party amendment. And that is all.

THE CORRECT POLICY.

The correct policy, of course, is for the Colonial Office to obtain, by wire, full explanations from Lord Gladstone of the action of Botha and his Ministers; and to insist that if it be true that the presence of these men in South Africa is a menace to the peace of the colony, they should not have been sent here without our sanction being first obtained; that we decline to be the cesspool of the world—to receive any country's refuse; and, above all, that we cannot be asked to harbour men who are bent upon destroying our South African Empire—and whose proper treatment, in that case, is a prosecution for treason. It might also be pointed out that we have enough Labour troubles of our own, and that having only just succeeding in squelching one Larkin, we are not prepared to open our arms to welcome a dozen more bearers of his "fiery cross." On the other hand, if, as is probable, the men have done nothing more than embark upon a legitimate—even if dangerous—agitation for the redress of either real or imaginary grievances of South African workers, it should be made clear that, unless the new Constitution is elastic enough to grapple with such a situation, it should be at once amended—or abolished. Oh, for a Business Government!

THANKS FROM THE PARSONS.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE REV. W. CUFF.

As we said last week, it is always a source of real pleasure to us to be able to say a word of appreciation of the Clergy whenever we can—much more than it is to take them to task, as we have so often of late been compelled to do; and our readers would be surprised if they knew the number of letters we receive from the "cloth," thanking us for the castigation we now and then administer to their brethren.

Here, for instance, is a Berkshire curate writing apropos of our article last week on the "Randy Rector":

"Enter laughter holding both his sides." Oh, my dear Mr. Bottomley, you'll be the death of me! I shall die laughing, like the ancient Anacreon, wasn't it? "A Randy Rector"! Oh dear, oh dear! Have just sent it to one of the most bigoted, narrow-minded, uncharitable, ignorant old vicars in existence, who talks about "the Church," his "conscience," the honour of the Priesthood, etc., but who lost a fortune in speculation, is the greediest man I ever met; has made no sort of provision for his wife, and is up to his eyes in unnecessary debts (wines, spirits, etc.). Fearfully down on moral lapses, and yet I am told, on the best authority, an old beast, devoured with selfishness. And to think there are hundreds of these old savages scattered all over England. Good luck to you. You wield the hammer of Thor. You are a veritable Luther of the new era. Glad to know you, sir—"uncommon proud."

But more to our liking is the following letter from the venerable Rev. W. Cuff, written from the Shoreditch Tabernacle, Hackney Road, London:—

Since your "Open Letter" to me appeared in JOHN BULL I have wanted to write you. I had a great mind to call and try to see you, that I might have gripped your hand and thanked you in person. But I have hesitated.

I see to-day in your article on "A Randy Rector" that you are good enough to refer to me again, and also to my son. I did not know he had written you; but I am glad he has done so. I am sure he keenly appreciated your "Open Letter" to his father. And now, without any cant, let me say so do I, keenly, thankfully appreciate your kind, frank letter. I assure you all my friends do-in all parts of the country, as I have heard from many. What is much more, and much better, it will do a lot of good for next Christmas, because if I am alive and well I shall don the apron and steel and be at the beef again. I may as well tell you that this is a bit of work I love, and have made it my delight all these years. The knife and steel tickle my fingers, and make me feel I am young again and in the old shop at the old job. I have always done it for the sake of the poor, and no one knows the pleasure of it but he who does it.

We gave over 300 families a jolly good Christmas dinner in the form of beef, bread and grocery last Christmas Eve. I think we could most of us make the world better if we tried. At least, we could make some rough places smoother, and some bitter things sweeter. With the love of God in our hearts and *just one inch and a half of real manhood* in us, we could shed some sunshine where now there is nothing but gloom.

We shall certainly bear Mr. Cuff's knife and fork in mind when making our annual distribution of Xmas cheer. And may he be long spared to wield them!

We could quote several more letters from clerical readers, but the following passage from one of them must suffice:—

At first sight it looks as though you were bent on discrediting religion, and for a long time I shared that view. But your generous tributes to our brethren from time to time, and the splendid humanity of your "Human Document" and other pages, has converted me.

And there, for the moment, we will leave it.

SCALDING A BABY.

ANOTHER HOSPITAL SCANDAL.

We are awaiting the result of an inquiry directed by the Stafford Coroner into the circumstances of a scandal disclosed at a recent inquest at which he presided. It transpired that a five-weeks-old baby had been removed from its home to the Stafford Infirmary, suffering from a severe cough. Upon its arrival at the institution the trouble was diagnosed as "bronchial pneumonia," and the medical officer prescribed appropriate treatment, including a course of hot baths. So negligently or clumsily were these administered that the child's body was badly blistered, and a large red mark indicative of burning was raised upon its forehead. The poor mite subsequently died from the ravages of pneumonia, but it is impossible to say how far its death was precipitated by the injuries named.

At the inquest the Coroner took a most serious view of these disclosures, and the medical officers and nurses concerned were subjected to the closest examination. In particular, the nurses who had bathed the infant were pressed for an accurate account of the circumstances in which it came by its injuries. It may, perhaps, be counted to their credit that they made no attempt to minimise the seriousness of the situation. It was admitted that the temperature of the child's bath water was not once read with a thermometer, although a number of these were kept in the bathroom. That the injuries to the child's back were caused by scalding was not for a moment contested, while the blister on the forehead was said to be due to scorching, as the infant lay on a nurse's lap in front of a brisk fire.

After hearing the whole of the evidence the jury were unable to exonerate the medical and nursing staffs, and they accordingly urged the Coroner to report the whole matter to the House Committee of the Infirmary, with a view to full inquiry by the Governors. We trust there will be a thorough investigation into all the circumstances of the sorry case, and that an adequate public report will be issued at an early date.

A PRIZE SPONGER.

WALSALL'S CHAMPION CAD.

Horace Stanley Edwards, 16, Mellish Road, Walsall, is undoubtedly the prize sponger of the town. Indeed, from what we have gathered from the contemptible figure he cut in the Birmingham Law Courts, he impresses us with the conviction that we should have to go far before we found a more perfect specimen of the genus cad. The Recorder at the Quarter Sessions who tried Edith Overton, a cashier, for extensive defalcations from her employer, expressed the opinion that Edwards ought to have stood by her side for receiving money from her knowing it to have been stolen. But of one thing there is no doubt whatever. This woman may not have stolen wholly because of him, and she may have stolen if she had not met him—but she probably stole more because of him. He, it is clear, was the parasite and the sponge, and this double rôle was so well suited to his character that we cannot trace one incident in his relations with the woman which occasioned him a moment of scruple or a flush of shame. He took money from her for his personal pocket, and he took money from her to pay for excursions and theatres, and suppers, and other pleasures which no decent biped made in the form of a man would accept from any woman in the relation in which he stood to this one—a humble cashier earning her daily bread in a hat shop. We must not and will not go behind his evidence, whatever the difficulty we may find in giving credence to it, that he had no reason to believe the woman had come otherwise than honestly by the money she was giving him; but even if it is to be accepted, he must still remain the prize sponger of Walsall, well worthy of all the public recognition the town can confer upon him. The woman goes to gaol for four months; he goes free. That is the judgment; it is also the warning. The legal defence which has so admirably succeeded this time may not so easily avail again. Enough is said.

Over 5,000 Cash and Other "Bullets" Prizes are to be Won Weekly. Page 28.

GERMANY'S GAME EXPOSED.

A PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES—UNDERMINING THE *ENTENTE*.

If it would be going too far to say that the foreign policy, or what passes for such, of the present Government has completely changed in the last year, there is good reason to believe that the warmth of its feelings for the international compact known as the "Triple *Entente*" has considerably cooled. This assertion will very probably evoke an angry disclaimer, and therefore it is necessary to be absolutely precise as to the sense in which it is meant. For the maintenance of peace-at-any-price the *Entente* is just as favourably regarded as it ever was; for the preservation of an equality at the diplomatic council board it is still considered a good working arrangement; but for the settlement of grave international problems it has come to be realised that behind it lurk the possibilities of very vigorous and decisive action, and this has put it out of favour with those to whom vigorous action is always repugnant, and sometimes, perhaps, impossible. Indications of this changing mood may be found in the proposal to cut down the Naval Estimates, and in the quasi-abandonment of the Expeditionary Force. Let us try and sketch some of the causes that have led to at least a considerable modification of the attitude that gave the French Government during the last Moroccan crisis the positive assurance of the immediate and unqualified naval and military support of this country. This examination will show not merely a moral flinching on the part of the present Government, but very astute diplomacy on the part of Germany—still in the stage of active development.

THE AUTUMN OF 1911.

In the early autumn of 1911, Germany had decided to attack France. Realising the situation, the British Government was ready to send the Expeditionary Force across the Channel. The German Government learnt of this fact with some surprise, for although it had anticipated France's receiving our naval support, it had not thought that military co-operation would be forthcoming; and so promptly. Therefore, it drew back and decided to watch and wait. It also decided to make a systematic effort to sow discord within the ranks of the *Entente*, principally by enlarging upon and emphasising the several divergencies of interests and opinion between England and Russia. The weak point of the *Entente* was considered at Berlin to lie in the relations of the two quasi-Asiatic Empires with clashing interests, as it seemed, in Turkey, Persia, and China. German diplomacy adopted as its trump card what may be called the bogey of the Slav Peril; but its success has been mainly due to the state of craven funk (a *status lymphaticus*) engendered among his Majesty's Ministers by their display of courage in September-October, 1911.

FRIGHTENING THE GOVERNMENT.

When at that date the few responsible Ministers informed the other members of the Government that at any moment there might be war with Germany, accompanied by the dispatch of the greater part of the regular Army, the news was received with stupefaction; but the timidity of the mass could not then have affected or compromised the decision of the Government to stand by France at all costs. Startling as this decision was to the ordinary Radical mind, it was still more of a shock to learn that everything was ready to give it immediate practical effect. The international crisis passed, but it left the Expeditionary Force as the standing mark of Radical resentment. It will be remembered that early in last year's Session a whole series of questions was put to the Prime Minister to extract from him an assurance that we were under no obligation to land a force on the Continent. Mr. Asquith gave what is called a reassuring answer, and it revealed that the action of the Government on the next critical occasion would be by no means so energetic as it was to have been in 1911. It might be translated, "We may again find ourselves on the eve of war with Germany, but certainly no Expeditionary Force shall sail within the 72 hours following its outbreak, as would have happened in 1911."

The attitude of the Government is not, however, the most important feature in the episode. In 1911, the country itself did not realise that it was within an ace of war with Germany, and although Pan-Germans will not believe it, there is no desire here to precipitate that struggle. Indeed, if there were any honourable way of averting it and at the same time maintaining the balance of power in Europe which is essential to the security of this country, that policy would command the support of the whole nation. The appreciation of the situation and of all it signified led to an extraordinary development of all the pro-German influences and elements in the country, with a view to showing what a very terrible and upsetting thing an Anglo-German war would be. Anglo-German Friendship Societies were formed, parties of Parliamentarians and Pressmen visited Berlin, and an impression was created as to there being no real cause of hostility or collision between the two countries. This demonstration, partly genuine, partly artificial, under the patronage of the wealthy German community established in our midst, was not ineffective. It encouraged the German hope of breaking up the *Entente* and of yet finding an occasion to fall upon France when English suspicions had been lulled to sleep, and whilst snow and frost kept the Russian army in a state of more or less inactivity. In short, the calculations and anticipations of the summer of 1911 revived with a fixed determination to make sure of England's inaction on the next occasion.

THE SLAV PERIL BOGEY.

That diplomacy is based on Germany's disclaimer of any desire or intention to force a quarrel with France, because her thoughts are really directed towards the protection of Europe from the Slav Peril. The other day it was the Yellow Peril against which the Kaiser was to protect us. Russia is printed in lurid colours as the danger to us all; Russia gathering into her fold all the forces of Slavdom. There is reason to believe that Russia's military strength is very great; statisticians at Berlin allege that she will shortly have ten million soldiers! It is not quite clear whether the German critics have invented this total, or whether they are really afraid of Russia. But for us the important matter is the impression these views have made on our malleable foreign policy. Proof, if desired, could be found that these views have not fallen on deaf ears. A very considerable party in England does not like the Anglo-Russian Convention in Persia. The question of the eventual ownership of Constantinople and the Straits is the most thorny point in the Near East problem. No one has suggested a solution that would completely reconcile the English and the Russian views of that matter. In China, also, Russian proceedings from time to time raise misgivings, and someone is starting the maddest of all March hares by alleging that France and Russia are going to join their railway systems in Western China by poaching on what has been considered our preserve. That lie might certainly be traced to its fountain head, and nailed to the counter. The Slav Peril bogey, then, was provided with a ready-made foundation in the points of Anglo-Russian difference. The Triple *Entente* has weakened, not because there is any cooling of sentiment towards France—but because the old suspicions have been aroused with regard to Russia.

This would be a great achievement for German diplomacy if it stood alone, but it does not. German efforts have also been directed towards the hampering of the British Government by entangling understandings, accords, and conventions. To accumulate agreements on matters of an entirely secondary and subordinate character is to make vigorous action on one of primary importance difficult, if not impossible. To put it plainly, how could a Government that had signed conventions relating to Africa, the Bagdad railway, and railways in China, order the Expeditionary Force to sail for its destination? Under the most favourable supposition, it would waver and delay when the needs of the hour demanded prompt action. And so, partly from moral cowardice, partly through the astute moves of German diplomacy, there is a rift in the lute of the Triple *Entente*.

NANCY NOVELTYITES.

HOW A DEFINITE ANSWER TURNED AWAY WRATH.

We have had sent to us by readers a considerable number of circulars issued by the International Novelty House, 1, Rue du Général-Haxo, Nancy, France. The proposals set forth are obviously of so one-sided and suspicious a character that we had no hesitation in publishing the following paragraph in our "Letter Bag" of January 17th :—

> No doubt the International Novelty House, of Nancy, France, will be very pleased if you send them £1 4s. for a supply of "Calloxit," whatever that may be. But, for the sake of Old England's reputation for business astuteness, don't.

Someone, apparently, forwarded the extract to the Novelty House, who thereupon wrote us on January 20th that they were "astonished" and thought "there *will be* a mistake" (!) ; mildly requested us to publish a correction in our next number ; demanded that we should write both to the person who forwarded the cutting and our own correspondent, stating that there was an error on our part—for, as the Nancy Noveltyites put it: "It is evident that you have afraid them by your absolutely unjustified information" ; and wound up with the threat : "We await a definite answer by return of post, in other case, we shall put the matter in the hands of our solicitors." Our answer was certainly definite enough—namely, that we were unable to comply with their request—and evidently its very preciseness prevented their carrying into effect their menace of the law, for up to the time of going to press we have heard nothing further from them.

A CLOSER SCRUTINY.

Our attention being recalled to the matter by this interesting and amusing communication, we have now gone through all the papers. Our first impression of the undesirableness of the proposition has been immensely strengthened. Several persons who responded to the firm's advertisement have had a printed letter offering them the sole agency for "Tenta," one of the many preparations which are claimed to make incandescent mantles more durable. The heading, which bears only the Nancy address, seeks to impress correspondents with the notice "Letters sent to our branch depots cannot be answered."

The prospective agent is then invited to make a "small trial" of 50 or 100 boxes of the preparation, the smaller quantity priced at "5 dollars," and the larger at £1 18s.—being encouragingly told that he is "sure to know the proverb 'Beat the iron while it is red hot,'" the analogy being strengthened by the assurance that "This is what applies best to our concern." It *is* hot!

Included in the batch of documents is a printed contract for the "sole agency" which prospective clients are led to understand may be secured by means of the trial order for the 5 dollars' worth of goods. They will soon, however, discover their mistake, as did a Folkestone man—who in due course was referred to the firm's booklet, which made it clear that the honour of a "sole agency" could be conferred only on those who sent in a minimum order based on the population of the town—the "head cook and bottle-washer" for Folkestone thus having to pay in advance for no less than 750 boxes!

MAKING *ASSURANCE* DOUBLY SURE.

A hand-bill headed "A Certain Proof of the superiority of 'Tenta,'" merely bears what purport to be a dozen testimonials from "O. M.," "K.K. at E.," "F. V. at U," etc., names and addresses—and, with one exception, even dates—being withheld. A pamphlet entitled "The Way to Success," and containing "confidential communications for our chief agents," is also kindly sent to everyone who has answered the advertisement. This is worth the postage, being in delightfully unconventional and amusing English. It is suggested that a chief agent could "easily make much money" by inserting such advertisements as :—

> SAFE EXISTENCE!
>
> for striving people ready to sell a splendid article manufactured in masses. No competition, novelty wanted everywhere. No funds, no shop.

The last sentence should act as sufficient warning. One more extract : "You need no working capital, for the small amount you pay for the first order cannot be looked upon as a working capital." No ; as the purchase price of experience!

THE GOBLIN OF GALLEYWOOD.

DEW'S DAMNABLE DIATRIBE.

At Galleywood, a village near Chelmsford, it appears, a poor young woman, early in the new year, contributed to the nation's wealth by bringing into the world a little stranger. When the doctor and the nurse had relieved the poor woman of the State's allowance of thirty pieces of silver, and she was able to get up from her bed, she had to think of the next procedure before going out into the world to earn bread for herself and child. As this paragraph is intended for bachelors and maiden ladies as well as those who have been "through the mill," it is necessary to explain that before a woman can go forth into the world after giving birth to a child, she is supposed to attend Church and go through the formality of "purification." This is called "Churching" ; and there are thousands of people who would not allow a mother to enter their houses unless she had been through the ceremony. So the poor woman wrote to the Rev. Mr. Dew, asking him for an appointment for the function. Here is his reply :—

> I am sorry I cannot Church you to-morrow. Your child is the child of sin, although it may be legitimate in the eyes of the law. You have not, so far as I know, shewn any sign of penitence for what you must know to be sin, and the Churching Service is not suitable for such cases.

A pretty document for a disciple of Christ to write, surely!

From inquiries we have made, it appears that the woman had loved, "not wisely, but too well," some four months before she married—and while the State very properly says "We'll bury the hatchet," in consideration of the marriage, although late in the day, the Church says, "Your child is the child of sin. You have not shown any sign of penitence."

Now we wonder what Mr. Dew expected this woman to do as an act of penitence. Did he expect her to prostrate herself naked before the altar, or roam the streets of the village clad in sackcloth and ashes? And why should the *woman* only require "purifying"? What about her partner in "sin"? Did he require disinfecting? If, however, either of them does, we hold that the municipal authorities of Chelmsford could perform the process far more efficiently than the Rev. Mr. Dew—and possibly cheaper also.

"GOD'EM" AT CARDIFF.

A VERY OBLIGING "MONEYLENDER."

Jack Evans, of 65, Talbot Street, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, appears to be a very obliging sort of person, if one can judge from the following circular letter he is sending through the post :—

> Now that work is scarce and very little money about to purchase the necessary articles required in every day life, it may be sometimes necessary that you should look around you for a small money loan to meet perhaps rent, doctor's or grocer's bills, etc. But owing to the sometimes questionable dealings that some money-lenders use, and their tremendous interest that they extort from you, you can never see your way to get clear of them.
>
> Although perhaps you may never have dealt with me before, I have been established 40 years, and during the whole of that time I have always been noted for fair dealing. I am not a Jew or a foreigner, and bear a good, honest English name. I only deal in small amounts of £2, and the whole interest I ask for that amount is 2s. 6d., and *no more*. The interest mentioned above, namely 2s. 6d. (Postal Order) should be sent with the enclosed form filled in. You do not pay another farthing until one week after you receive cash (£2), then 1s. is due, nothing more.
>
> I make no enquiries and require no security whatever. The cash is yours, immediately you fill up the form and send P.O. for 2s. 6d. Other firms make you wait weeks before you receive cash, but as my speciality is small amounts the whole business is completed in the course of a day or so.

One of our readers, who probably thought he was on a good thing, sent Evans the half-crown asked for, but he never received the £2, and repeated application for the loan fails to draw Jack Perhaps this will stop his little game.

Turn to page 28 For "Bullets"—Then to page 31 For Football Contest.

SOUTHWICK RECTOR WON'T GO.

WILL NOT RESIGN "TILL HIS DEATH."

The paragraph in our issue of January 24th in reference to the position of the Rev. Mr. Miller, Rector of Southwick, has set the whole place ablaze, but has brought us only two protests—one from the Rector's Warden, and the other from one of his sidesmen! We ought, perhaps, to add a resolution of the "Southwick branch of the C.E.M.S.," recording the "unabated confidence" in the Rector of "the men composing the meeting"; but as we have no information as to the number of such men, and knowing what we do as to how such meetings are "composed," and as, moreover, the letter conveying the resolution is written on the same paper as the letter of the Rector's Warden, we will simply say that this protest shall receive at our hands all the attention it deserves. But there has not been a single word of dissent from any ordinary parishioner—nor has the Rector himself condescended to reply to our specific allegations, although he has evidently inspired his sidesman's epistle.

Limited Comparison.

And what is the answer? The sidesman gives us the figures of communicants and collections at the *Easter Sunday*, *Christmas* and *Harvest Festival* services; and then he invites us to send down one of our "commissionaires" to count the respective attendants at the 8 *a.m. service* at the two churches in question. Nothing is said about either the ordinary morning or evening service. With reference to our original complaint regarding the attitude of the Rector towards unbaptised children—by omitting their Christian names when recording their deaths, in his parish magazine—the inspired sidesman tells us to look "at the top of the Service for the Burial of the Dead"! The Rector's attitude of stubborn resistance to the Council's desire to remove the dangerous Church school corner is defended on the ground that there is no danger notice at the spot and that "there has been no accident yet"; the processional cross is justified "as the emblem of the *English* Catholic faith."

As regards the Rector's Warden, he tells us that he *was* a resident when he was first elected, *five years ago*, and that his predecessor in office was "neither a resident nor a local property owner." He does not, however, mention that such predecessor was a yacht owner, paying harbour dues, employing local labour and renting a store at £15 a year. Nor does he touch upon our suggestion that his tenure of the office is illegal. We are told that the gifts of the processional crosses was mentioned "at the last vestry meeting," and that "nobody disapproved"; but we are not told how many were present and in what way the gifts were announced. The desire of the Rector to remove the People's Warden is repudiated on the ground that four years ago the Rector handed that official a testimonial and a sum of money—subscribed to by the congregation, we presume—to mark the completion of 20 years' service! And then comes a defence of the insult to the memory of the dead child, and to its parents, of which we originally complained: "A Christian name implies the name given to a child at baptism, when admitted as a member of *Christ's* Church . . . and therefore the child in question, being unbaptised, *was without a christian name*"—and, "therefore," we presume was simply poor little "Brown" or "Smith," and its parents and friends were guilty of a grave sin in calling it anything else! And this in the Church of Christ, who said: "Suffer little children to come unto me." Poor little mite—and poor Rector's Warden!

The Parson's Permanency.

We have no desire to continue the controversy, or we could say much more. We could speak, for instance, of a regular lady communicant of the Church who recently, shortly before her death, expressed a wish to be buried in the Kingston churchyard; of the local Territorials who, after one visit to Mr. Miller's church, asked permission to attend the other one; of quarrels with the late Vicar of Kingston, and of many other things. But we must leave the Rector to his "people"—with an expression of regret that, under the constitution of the Established Church, they will have to put up with him apparently to the end of his days.

PEER AND PHEASANT.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME AT HEYSHOTT.

At the Midhurst Police Court two labourers, of Heyshott, were recently charged with "taking game" upon land in the occupation of Lord Cowdray. There was no material dispute as to the facts. The men were home from Canada on a short holiday, and, desiring a little sport, they had gone forth one night, unmindful of English game laws, and shot a pheasant. It appears that they had before been charged in respect of a similar offence, but that the proceedings had failed in consequence of a technical flaw in the summons. Willing to shoulder the normal consequences of their conduct, the culprits had not sought to profit by the error of the prosecution, but had stood their ground and awaited a second summons. These circumstances were impressed upon the Bench by the solicitor for the defence, who asked that his clients might be treated with all possible clemency. They were "holidaying" at the time of the occurrence, and were by no means familiar with the rigour of the law in these matters.

The magistrates, however, declined to take a lenient view of the affair. From the sacred soil of Amberstone the blood of the slaughtered pheasant cried to them for vengeance. With a curiously inverted logic, which frequently does duty on such occasions, the Chairman pointed out that the offence was clearly a serious one, inasmuch as the law prescribed three months' hard labour as its maximum punishment upon a first conviction. The Bench, in their mercy, would not go to this length. Each defendant was ordered to pay an inclusive fine of £3. They will doubtless return to Canada with eloquent reports of the tender hospitality of the dear old Motherland. We tremble to think what might have happened to them had it been a Tory pheasant. Meanwhile, Mr. Lloyd George may make what platform use he likes of the incident.

THE STORY OF A SKIRT.

BRIGHTON JUDGE'S SORRY LAPSE.

It was not an easy problem which was recently presented to Judge Mackarness at the Brighton County Court, when Mrs. Frances Woolf, of Hove, sued Madame de Witte, a local costumier, for the value of materials supplied. Being in need of a new skirt, Mrs. Woolf had bought a quantity of cloth and sent it to the dressmaker to be "made up" according to her specification. Imbued with devotion to the latest modes, Madame de Witte constructed a garment which was much too tight and much too short for the plaintiff's notions of propriety.

In this state of affairs, the learned judge appears to have been anxious to please both parties as far as in him lay. He first awarded Mrs. Woolf £1 1s. damages for the spoiling of her dress material, and then ordered her to pay 30s. to Madame de Witte in respect of the labour involved in the process! If the matter had ended here, no great harm might have been done. It was, indeed, suggested that the skirt, though quite unsuitable for a lady of Mrs. Woolf's matronly dignity, would yet have been the very thing for her grand-daughter, to whose lithe figure it could have been readily adapted. All hope of such a happy solution was, however, destroyed by his Honour's final pronouncement. He decreed that the hobbled and fore-shortened garment should remain the property of Madame de Witte!

This extraordinary judgment may be thus summarised. In awarding damages to Mrs. Woolf, his Honour virtually held that her cloth had been spoilt by the dressmaker, to whom, with striking impartiality, he proceeded to adjudge thirty shillings for her pains. Having thus, on the balance, presented Madame de Witte with a trifle of nine shillings, he then thought fit to make her a free gift of the costume, which she will doubtless contrive to turn to profitable account. Such a decision was manifestly unfair, there being no vestige of legal ground for allowing Madame de Witte's claim to possession of the garment. We have occasionally had reason to commend Judge Mackarness, but in this instance he has evinced a lamentable blindness to the plain equity of the case before him.

Another No-Waiting Football Contest—ONE WEEK Only. Prizes £1,500, £500, £150 & £50.

Artists Wanted to Illustrate Advts.

"JOHN BULL" SCHOLARSHIPS

OPEN TO OUR READERS WITHOUT ENTRANCE FEE.

For Professional Course of Home Study personally conducted by Famous London Artist.

The Complete Until-Proficient Course of Instruction in the most lucrative of the Applied Arts awarded at half-fees to the first 25 readers who pass a postal exam. The Instruction practically guarantees the money-earning value of the teaching. If it fails to help 25 Scholarship Winners to earn at least £10, then they need not pay the balance of fee for their tuition.

What You Have to Do

is to copy with pen or pencil the sketch on the cover of JOHN BULL, and sketches in the P.C.C. Test Paper which will be sent gratis.

Adjudicators:

CHAS. E. DAWSON, Esq. (Art Director of the P.C.C., late Art Editor *Nash's*, "Great Britain's Greatest Magazine" contributor to Christmas Number of *Truth*. the leading Art publications of England and America, and one of London's most popular and successful designers of pictorial publicity).

HUGH A. CARGILL, Esq. (Advertising Manager of JOHN BULL, and acknowledged authority upon Advertising Art).

VINCENT LOCKWOOD, Esq., M.I.S.A.C.(Principal of the Practical Correspondence College and well-known Critic of Commercial Art and Literature).

The names of the gentlemen, whose decision will be final, absolutely guarantee the fairness of the test.

Professional Course of Home Study conducted by leading London Artist awarded at Half-Fee to first 25 readers who pass a Postal Exam. in Sketching.

If You are Fond of Sketching

it will pay you to read the following statements by famous Advertising Artists:—

"If you can learn to write, you can learn to draw. Courage and Common-sense are more valuable than genius to those who would earn money by sketching. The demand for suitable sketches exceeds the supply, and as Artistic Advertising is still in its infancy in England the prospects for those who enter the field *now* are truly magnificent."

"More openings for Black-and-White artists than ever," says another famous poster artist. In the *London Budget*, he declared that: "There are more openings for Black-and-White artists to-day in the newspaper world than ever. Almost every month sees the birth of some new journal, and almost every new journal requires illustrating. The Black-and-White artist, if he is a worker, would soon be earning from £300 to £500 a year."

Thousands of Pounds Daily.

Advertisers, in London alone, spend Thousands of Pounds Daily finding and buying the sketches they want—just the kind of work this Course may train you to do. But—you must have the essential-training.

You Can Earn While You Learn.

Black-and-White Artists sell their work by post, saving the time and embarrassment of bargaining. By post, too, you can learn what you need to know of this new, well-paid profession—all that the Art-Schools and text-books don't teach—how to make a living by Art—and if you win a scholarship, you will be helped to earn while you learn.

The Practical Correspondence College—the All-British Art School with the world-wide reputation—awards its Full Course of Instruction in Black-and-White at half-fees to the first 25 readers to pass a postal examination. Balance of fees is only payable when you have earned Ten Pounds.

The College stakes 100 guineas upon the success of the 25 JOHN BULL Scholarship holders—ample guarantee of conscientious and thorough training.

No Preliminary Training or Expenses Necessary.

Awards made in the order in which competition sketches are received. Send as soon as possible, but not later than February 28th, stamped, self-addressed envelope for gratis particulars of the most successful Course of Home Study in Black and White at the most liberal terms ever offered, and for Test Paper.

Subjects Taught Include:

Drawing for reproduction, cover, and advertisement designs, lettering, perspective, line, wash and body colour sketches, splatter work, time and labour-saving devices, originating designs, establishing a connection, commercial correspondence, dealing with printers, publishers and advertisers, how, when and where to sell designs to the best advantage. The exclusive and confidential lessons are lavishly and superbly illustrated. Students' exercises are criticised and difficulties explained away by personal correspondence.

If you can draw well enough to amuse your friends here is your opportunity to begin at once to learn to turn your Talents into Guineas. Remember: The Practical Correspondence College—the All-British School of Art, is world-famous for the money-earning value of its postal Instruction.

In ten years, the goodwill and success of its students has built it up from a small private concern to the Technical-training Institution of National Importance it is to-day. JOHN BULL guarantees its integrity and the absolute efficiency of its Instruction.

Commercial Art offers unique advantages and rewards as a spare time hobby, or regular occupation, and this opportunity of being launched right into the profession may not occur again.

Correspondence should not be sent to the Editor, but to the Secretary, P.C.C., 12, Thanet House, Strand, W.C.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

• THE CHURCH & THE MILITANT •

The Bishop visits Rachel Peace,
And finds, to his surprise,
That those who yelled for her release
Had told a lot of lies.

• "WHAT A BOTHA!" •

It *may* be wise to get them free
Of cats that spit and cuss,
But hardly fair, it seems to me,
To pass them on to us.

• EX SELSIOR •

The "booming" "buy"-plane upward goes
'Tis gilt-edged clouds among—
A profitable trip for those
Who don't hold on too long.

• DEVELOPING A NECKOTIVE •

When women in their mirrors see
The scars of Time's attacks,
On orthodox photography
They turn their saucy backs.

• RECONCILIATION •

The two great football camps, you see,
Their old disputes have healed,
And stand in AFAbility
Upon a common need.

• THE BUILDERS' BONFIRE •

The Unemployment Benefit (?)
Stirs up the builders' ire,
Who swear their cards will soon be lit
To make a bonny fire.

PUZZLE PESTS.

A SIMPLE CONDITION FOR THE SIMPLE MINDED.

A gang calling themselves the Holborn Vulcanite Company, give as their address 2, Princeton Street, Holborn, which, however, "knew them not" when this year's edition of the Post Office Directory was compiled. Their alleged puzzle at first sight appears to be a reproduction of the skin of a small-pox victim, but the accompanying letter-press makes it clear that the dots are intended to indicate the alphabet, one being a, two being b, and so on. Thus, any child of six is able to spell out the names of three prominent statesmen. For the solution of the infantile puzzle, prizes of £75 and £25 are offered—there being no entry fee, though there is, as would be expected, the stipulation usual in the case of these catches, namely, that "there is one simple condition and that need cost you nothing." On sending in the solution the competitor receives a printed letter artfully informing him that he is a winner *in* the "£100 cash prize distribution," and asking him to fulfil the condition by forwarding 3s. 9d. for a fountain pen. The usual end to this old game is for the victim to be informed that, owing to the number of his fellows, his share of the great prize is a halfpenny or a penny, which is not worth forwarding; and we see no reason to anticipate a fresh and startling dénouement in this case, especially as we observe that the "rules and conditions" which are drawn up in the attempt to impress the dupes, are identical with those which have done service on a previous occasion when the trick took its regular course.

THE SMITH FAMILY.

(Mr. Smith, of Boston, declares he is the heir of Lord Strathcona, and claims a portion of the estate. And there are others.)

Let every Smith who isn't a myth
Come forward with his claim;
Don't keep aloof, there's plenty of oof
For somebody of that name.
Though Lord Strathcona was a lord,
The blessed tidings tell
And the facts describe to all the tribe
That he was a Smith as well!

His real estate was certainly great,
And that is why we find
The folk of his name make haste to claim
The cash he left behind.
As there are plenty of Smiths about,
Until the right one's found
Let all show pluck and try their luck
On this new Tom Tiddler's ground.

Let every Smith come forward with
The proof of his Smithly birth;
A certificate may change the fate
Of the lowliest Smith on earth;
But let the battle be fought right out
And compromise go hang,
May one Smith win—if all shared the tin,
They wouldn't have saxpence to bang!

RICARDO

Don't Forget the Pen Coupon on page iii. of Cover.

BILLY'S TROUBLES.

17, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.
February 1st, 1914.

MY DEAR BILLY MY LAD,

"Why is it?" your letter pathetically tails off. Why is it, Billy? Your business prospects are as gloomy as an out-of-work undertaker, and your salary rises are so infrequent you have to use a Memory-Training System to remember the last one.

Billy, you're like scores and thousands of fellows in business to-day—in fact, the real root of all your trouble is just that you are so exactly like 'em. You are honest, sober, industrious, quite intelligent, have had a good average business training, and know your own particular work from A to Z.

But all these things won't hoist you out of the ruck, because they ARE the ruck—because these things are the uniform pattern of the swarming rank and file of the business army. You don't differ from the rest by a single button out of place or a knot in your boot-lace. Of course, if you know the business goose-step a bit better than the rest of the Tommy Atkinses in the office army, and put an extra polish on your honesty-sobriety buttons so as to catch the eye of your counting-house corporal, you may get an extra good-conduct badge added to your other trimmings every odder few years, and the few extra pence they earn.

But I suppose you want something more, and something quicker than that, my boy; and there isn't any reason whatever why you shouldn't get it.

But first you've got to make yourself worth it. You must know all there is to know of your own section of the biz, and soak up just as much of the other sections that touch it as your system can absorb.

You grumble, under your breath, that you don't get a chance to show your ability. That's pure tosh, old son. Any live man in a live office nowadays is falling over chances every day of his life. But he doesn't recognise them because he's not really looking out for them, and so they slide past.

A Chance, or an Opportunity, in an office, doesn't go round beating a big drum and calling attention to its existence. Some people apparently think that any well brought up Opportunity comes on like the heroine of a Sadler's Wells bellowdrama, and sinks down in the centre of the stage shrieking, "Catch me, catch me," while the orchestra plays twiddley music, and the limelight man turns the hundred-candle power spot-light full on her.

Real Opportunities don't act that way. Plenty of them may be strolling unobtrusively round your business all the time, but they're disguised as Daily Incidents, or wrapt up so well in Routine drudgery that they're apt to escape arrest.

Get a Harmsworth Business Library and read up all it has to say about your own business first. I recommend the Harmsworth Business Library particularly because I know that although you may buy separate text-books on business letter-writing, and filing systems, and book-keeping, and all that, the Harmsworth gives not only all these but scores of other things.

After you get on friendly terms with your Harmsworth Business Library, it's astonishing what a lot of ordinary things you find wearing the Opportunity tag. The H.B.L. puts you in the way of selling all sorts of common workaday jobs to pieces and worrying out whether they wouldn't be better built on the H.B.L. plan.

The same Business Library is on the table in front of me as I write—ten handsome-looking volumes in the neat Combination Book Case and Writing Desk that you get with them—and, Billy, I can't begin to tell you how much those books have been to me, and how absolutely invaluable they are to any man who is keen to get along in business and lift himself out of the £2 or £3-a-week mob. I consult them constantly for information on things I run across in my own business. The way they are arranged and indexed and cross-referenced makes it as easy as eating peas with a knife to find any item you want. The information is concise and clean-edged, and yet somehow it is full and exhaustive and gives you everything you want without superfluous trimmings.

More than that, there are articles in these volumes that are inspiring and stimulating to one's energy and ambition. They are written by the men who have earned the right to their say-so too. Every contributor to the Library is a top-notch No. 1 expert in his special line. Take the vol. on Advertising and Publicity, for instance. It is prepared by Thomas Russell, President of the Incorporated Society of Advertisement Consultants, and contributed to by a string of men like the Advert. Director of the *Daily Mail*, the Advert. Manager of *The Times*, of Kodak's, and other big advertising firms, as well as Hassall, the poster artist, and other leaders in their own lines.

Always remember that every word in these books is written by the very men whose success and position in the topmost twigs of the tall trees has been the reason for their being asked to contribute. You don't fancy that at all these big gun names give you nothing but windy preaching about the Dignity of Business and Extracts from Emerson, and gilt-edged texts and the Old Captain-of-Industry-interview prosings on How I Got On and Got Everything that wasn't screwed down.

First, last, and all the time, Harmsworth's is a Business Library, and it amputates every item that isn't useful, cold, matter-of-fact boiled down Essence of Business.

It is packed with just the information you want and details of all the complexities of every kind of modern business.

It is a marvel, and no man with any shadow of a pretence of a wish to get on in the game can afford to be without it.

The price is so low and the subscription terms so easy that the poorest City clerk can't say that he isn't able to afford it. And the chances are that any man will soon make himself worth more, and get a rise that more than covers the small subscriptions, AND, don't forget it, the increased salary runs on after the subscriptions have finished.

If you WANT to get on; if you want to do more than grumble about not having chances; if you want to make yourself worth more—go now, right away, and fill up the coupon at the bottom of the page where I have had this letter printed.

YOUR OLD CHUM AND WELL-WISHER,
A THOUSAND-A-YEAR MAN.

READERS OF "JOHN BULL"

are offered this beautiful Oak Bookcase and Desk

FREE

if they will subscribe for the 10-volume

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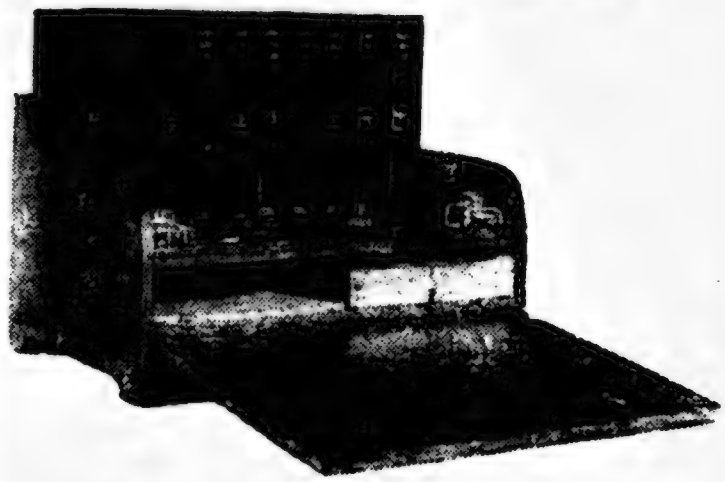


As you glance through the fascinating pages of the Harmsworth Business Library, you will realise that business is not a sort of treadmill affair, allotted to you as a life punishment, but a fascinating prize competition in which the most valuable prizes in the world are to be won by skill, industry and fearlessness.

You will feel that here is a personal message to yourself, showing how, by your own brain and backbone, you can reap the rich rewards of the commercial arena. You will learn the most valuable business secrets of men who have risen from poverty to affluence, from obscurity to power, from the bottom rung of the business ladder to the top.

Fill up and send us the coupon below. You will receive free of cost a beautiful booklet giving you full particulars of these money-making and salary-raising volumes.

COUPON FOR FREE BOOKLET.

To the EDUCATIONAL BOOK Co., Ltd.,
17, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.

SIRS,—I should like to receive full particulars of how to obtain FREE a Combination Book-case and Writing Desk with the Harmsworth Business Library, both to be delivered to me on first subscription of 2s. 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Occupation .....

J B. 7.

"THE EARL'S COURT SPECTACLE FIASCO."

LADY TREASURER'S AUTOCRATIC ATTITUDE.

The article in last week's issue under this heading has elicited a letter from Miss May Boothroy, Secretary of the Vocal Branch of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, in which, after expressing surprise at our comments, she says:—

> This Fund was organised by Mr. J. B. Williams, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, and myself, by the request of the artistes at Earl's Court, who signed a petition to that effect, and I was appointed Treasurer. The Fund was originally opened for one week only, but to aid the artistes still further we kept it open for another week. Having received the sum of £1,077 10s. 1d., we thought the public had responded most generously to the appeal, and that sufficient had been obtained to tide the sufferers through their worst distress.

If our information is accurate, and we see no reason to doubt it, the term "organised" possesses a very limited meaning; indeed, it amounts to little more than that Mr. Williams was the first to put into speech the idea of most of the stranded performers and those who sympathised with them—namely, that a fund should be raised for the sufferers, for the working of which the offices of the Union were placed at the disposal of the Committee, while Miss Boothroy volunteered to act as Treasurer. This view is strongly supported by a letter signed by Miss Boothroy herself, in which she says:—

> I would like to point out to you that the Relief Fund is not connected with the Amalgamated Musicians' Union beyond the fact that the A.M.U. have lent their offices and certain of their members have been elected with others to form the Distress Committee of the "Romance of India Relief Fund."

"We," who thought that when a little over £1,000 had been raised, enough had been done, seems to include besides herself merely Mr. Williams (who was never even a member of the Committee), for when she announced at the Committee Meeting of January 17th that she intended to close the Fund, there was an immediate outcry, it being pointed out to her that she had but one voice in such a matter; whilst when the question was referred to the three or four hundred stranded artistes, fourteen only voted in favour of the winding-up, they probably believing that the monetary grant in such an event would be of a much larger amount. On this day the resignations of Miss Boothroy and her friend, Miss Allan, were accepted, the Committee proceeded to collect further money.

In these circumstances, it is surprising that Miss Boothroy should have published in the *Daily Mail* a manifesto and statement of accounts, commencing with the words:—

> The Committee desire to express their thanks to the many generous donors who supported the above fund.

Doubtless the Committee *are* grateful, but Miss Boothroy has no authority to speak in their name; whilst, in view of the fact that the governing body is still in active existence, the further announcement:—

> It is proposed to apply the balance in hand to such necessitous cases as the Treasurer, Miss May Boothroy, Secretary of the Vocal Branch of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, shall consider most deserving

is an amazing exhibition of high-handedness.

It is true that when we had in this country a Lord Treasurer that great officer was generally Prime Minister and was often paramount in the executive departments of State, but we have never heard of this autocracy being extended to a *Lady* Treasurer—particularly after she had resigned.

TWO HEADINGS.

"NAVY CRISIS"—"SUBMARINE A7 LOST WITH ALL HANDS."

Ministers fight o'er the Navy's cost,
But if they agree, what then?
A hundred ships and millions of pounds
Are useless without the men.

Ah, gold is little, but life is much,
To the bottom the searcher dives;
And the price we pay to rule the seas,
Is paid with our sailors' lives.

A PRURIENT IMPOSTOR.

PRECEPT AND PRACTICE OF A PESTILENTIAL PRETENDER.

A gutter merchant of a rather unusual sort has lately been honouring the inhabitants of Leeds with his attention. Posing as a representative of the "Truth Society"—whatever that may be—he makes some play with our sixpenny contemporary's well-deserved reputation for the exposure of frauds and humbugs, though denouncing this journal in vitriolic terms—possibly because we may have "queered his pitch" when working some other game. The encomiums upon the "Sixpenny John Bull" lead to the production, and offer for sale, of a pamphlet entitled "Startling Revelations for Men and Women. An Elixir of Life. Price Sixpence. Published by C. J. Welton, 24, Drury Hill, Nottingham." The prurient purchaser, whose appetite has thus been artfully tickled by the humorous rascal, finds on turning the cover that the "Startling Revelations" take the shape of advertisements of salacious books, such as "Secret History of Kings and Peep into the Turkish Harem. Horrible murders, intrigues, and love adventures. Don't fail to read this. An eye-opener"; "Marriage and its Mysteries," and "Mystery of Life and the Determination of Sex"—what the weakness and nastiness of his mind has led him into buying being really a dozen pages of recipes, such as:—

> Dark Spots on the Skin.—Wash them with milk and flour of sulphur. This will remove them.

Or try soap.

> Dizziness.—Drink Sage Tea.

Soda water and a lamp-post are also efficacious.

In order, apparently, to cater for varying tastes, we are given the following, on different pages:—

> Hair Falling Off.—Damp the hair with sage tea, and the hair will be restored.
>
> Hair Falling Off.—Wash the head with good Jamaica rum; this will in time restore health and vigour to the roots of the hair.

But, to turn from gay to grave, no language can too severely censure the criminal folly of such indiscriminate advice as is contained in this prescription:—

> Eye Bright.—The juice of this herb dropped into the eyes will restore sight. Worth a guinea a box.

There is, however, one recommendation which we can heartily endorse:—

> Quacks.—Always avoid them. Never take their advice.

Especially when blatant bunkum and pandering to the prurient are added to pretentious ignorance.

BONEY'S BIT O' BRICK.

WHY HE LOST THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

Authorities differ as to the general who was really responsible for winning the battle of Waterloo—one even ascribes the honour to a private soldier, "Bill Adams." However, we may brush aside these seekers after honour and glory, and listen to "one who knows."

23, Bedford Street, Strand.

> Ap Dost Salaam,—Allah be with you during the coming year. A mutual friend suggested that you are likely to be interested in Occult matters, so I am writing to ask you if you would like a Rajah Lucky Stone. Napoleon wore one of these stones in all the battles he ever won, and had great faith in it; it is said that he mislaid his Lucky Stone when he lost his last battle. I claim no supernatural powers for these weird gems, all I ask is that you will read the Booklet, especially the testimonials on pages 14 and 15, the originals I shall be pleased to show you if you should call. So that you will feel independent of any obligation to me, you may send 4s. 6d.; if when you receive the Jewel, you think it is not worth the charge, send it back and the money shall be returned. Perhaps if you are not interested yourself, you would be good enough to pass the enclosed booklet.

This precious document is signed "Asoka." The premises at 23, Bedford Street, are two small rooms on the top floor, the head of the concern being a person named Roberts Morley. We called upon him in order to inspect the originals of a number of testimonials published in pamphlet form. Needless to say we did not see them. We were politely informed that the originals had been sent out to India, but that they were expected back shortly. The Lucky Stone business seems to be in full swing again. It is astonishing what silly people there are in the world.

Piece of Music and Free Coupon Pattern With "Mary Bull" Every Week. Fridays, 1d.

£500 FOR 50 Words.

OATINE 2nd GREAT WORD-MAKING COMPETITION

1,000 CASH PRIZES

1st Prize	-	-	-	£100
2nd ,,	-	-	-	£50
3rd ,,	-	-	-	£25
4th ,,	-	-	-	£10
5th ,,	-	-	-	£5
50 Prizes of	-	-		£1
100 ,, ,,	-	-		10s.
845 ,, ,,	-	-		5s.

Closing Date, Feb. 24

In this competition it is only necessary to make FIFTY WORDS, and the prizes will be awarded to those competitors who send in lists of the 50 longest words that can be made from the 19 letters contained in the words

OATINE SHAMPOO POWDER

For example the following suggest themselves:—

Wonder—Shipmate—Motion.

This is a simple, pleasurable competition, not involving any arduous work or hunting through voluminous dictionaries. Only fifty words have to be made, and the dictionaries before the judges have been purposely selected as being neither voluminous nor expensive, and for the further reason that one of them is to be found in almost every household.

Each list of words must be accompanied by the coupon to be found in every **1s.** box of seven Oatine Shampoo Powders. The coupon referred to gives the full list of conditions to be observed by competitors and also gives the names of the dictionaries which will be before the examiners, and only words to be found therein will be accepted.

No one in the employment of, or in any way connected with, The Oatine Company, will be allowed to compete.

The following gentlemen have agreed to act as a committee and will award the prizes, thus ensuring an absolutely independent and impartial decision for all competitors, and the decision of this committee is final:—

LOUIS KAUFMAN, Esq., General Manager "TRUTH." H. CARGILL, Esq., Advertisement Manager "JOHN BULL."
J. DODDS, Esq., Advertisement Manager "DAILY SKETCH."

OATINE SHAMPOO POWDERS (7 packets in a box, 1s., sold by all Chemists) In Two Varieties.

For DRY HAIR in Red Packets. For GREASY HAIR in Green Packets.

There is a great difference in people's hair, some having too much oil, and some hair which is very dry. The same shampoo will not suit both. It will remove oil that cannot be spared from the dry hair, making it brittle, harsh, and difficult to do up after washing. With oily hair, on the contrary, it will not remove the excess of oil, sometimes clogging and matting the hair yet further.

Recognising these conditions, The Oatine Company have brought out two varieties of Shampoo Powder. Think under which class your hair comes, and order the shampoo designed to suit your particular case. It will be a revelation to you, the feeling of hair and scalp cleanliness, the quick improvement in the appearance of your hair, and the ease with which it can be done up immediately after washing.

WHICH FOR YOU?

MAKE YOUR PURCHASE EARLY,

in order to obtain the coupon referred to above, as it gives full particulars and rules of the competition together with the names of the dictionaries before the judges, so that before sending in your list you will be sure that all words made are admissible. This coupon should be carefully read before you begin compiling your list of words, and when buying, be sure to ask for the special kind of Shampoo Powder to suit your particular requirements.

Send in your list as soon as it is completed, in order to facilitate the labour of the judges. All entries, however, must be received by Tuesday, February 24th. The list of prizewinners will be published in *the Daily Sketch* of March 18th.

IF YOUR CHEMIST CANNOT SUPPLY YOU, SEND P.O. FOR ONE SHILLING DIRECT TO US, AND YOUR ORDER WILL BE DISPATCHED BY RETURN OF POST.

THE OATINE CO., 689, Oatine Buildings, LONDON, S.E.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE —"

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of human derelicts whose cases, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

CCLXXXVII.—A NEARLY HOPELESS CASE.

It is always our aim to place before our readers cases in which certain and permanent benefit can be bestowed. Here, however, we depart somewhat from that rule on account of the pathos of the appeal made to us by the head of a family after being informed that we could give no definite promise to deal with his application for help. The man has been out of work nearly eight months, principally owing to failing eyesight, and he now has to enter a hospital for an operation. He has a wife and family of four, whose ages range from 5 years to three months. During the whole period of his unemployment the family were compelled to live by pawning and selling articles of furniture. The poor wife also earned a little by needlework. Of course they are in debt. Considering the whole of the circumstances, when the first application was made, although we considered the case a distressing one, we did not see how we could possibly save the family from the workhouse, and so gave preference to others. However, in view of the condition of the poor man, we place the facts before our readers. We will also have a talk with the local Guardians of the Poor, in order to see if outdoor relief can be granted to the family and thus keep them from the workhouse. If this can be obtained, with our readers' aid the family might be kept together until such time as the result of the operation on the bread-winner is ascertained. Moreover, this course would almost certainly considerably assist the poor man's recovery.

CCLXXXVIII.—A NEW YEAR'S "GIFT."

Here is a sad story of joy turned into sorrow on the first day of the new year. In a cottage not far from Sunderland were assembled a little family of seven. They were waiting for the arrival of the eighth, the father. Circumstances had compelled him to work some 150 miles away from them, and he was returning by excursion train for a New Year's reunion. They were a happy circle, in expectation of seeing father. A knock at the cottage door! Father? No. A telegram to the mother from the railway company notifying her that her husband had been found dead on the line. Thus was the happy group turned into one of sorrow. It subsequently transpired that he fell from the train, but there was no evidence as to how, and, of course, the railway company would accept no responsibility—not even so much as conveying the body to its destination. He had purchased an excursion ticket to travel by a certain train, and he had left it before arriving at his destination. So it came about that the few shillings which were intended to celebrate the New Year's reunion were spent in bringing to the cottage the body of the bread-winner from the place where it was found mangled on the line. A priest who knows the family writes us as follows:—

> The deceased leaves a wife; a son about 25, but who is often out of work; two daughters who earn a few shillings a week, a girl about 16 who helps her mother at home, and three young girls who go to school. They are a very deserving family—poor at best of times, but I fear are now heavily in debt owing to the expenses of the funeral.

This is eminently a case for practical sympathy. We feel sure just a little sunshine can be brought into this home—and that our readers will do it.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have received the following donations, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCLXXX.—C. B. R., parcel.

CCLXXXII.—"Anonymous," parcel.

CCLXXXIII.—"Fourpennybit," 2s. 6d.; "Grenade," 2s.; "West," £3; S. C. (Kinsale), 2s.; "M. & B.," 2s.; T. B., 2s. 6d.; J. E. N., 6d.; B. H., 1s.; C. H. B., 1s.; J. B., 1s. 6d.; "Dick," 6d.; F. F. K. (Birmingham), 6d.; G. C. K. (Brighton), 1s.; E. J. (Sheffield), 6d.; J. C. (Exeter), 2s. 6d.; H. R. W. 2s. 6d.

CCLXXXIV.—"Little Joan," 2s.; K. A., 2s. 6d.; G. & A. S., 2s. 6d.; "Lena Jane," 1s.; J. C. (Exeter), 2s. 6d.; "Bishopstoke," 4s.; E. H., 1s.; "Hawk," 2s.; "Evelyn," 1s.; "Anonymous," parcel; Miss J. S., 2s.

CCLXXXV.—"West," £1; E. M. H., 4d.; G. J. L., 3s. 6d.; "Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; D. P. R., 5s.; Driver G. C., 2s. 6d.; Mr. A. F., 2s. 6d.; "The Rambling Wreck of Poverty," 5s.; L. W. H. (Kensal Rise), 10s.; L., 1s.; Mrs. F. P., 2s. 6d.; J. B. R., 6d.; J. E. C., 1s.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; N. J. W., 6d.; "Grateful Bullet Winner," 1s.; "Tom," 2s.; "Hall-keeper," 1s.; "Chummie," 2s. 6d.; "Monificth," 6d.; "Violet," 10s.; J. T. S., 1s.; "In Memory of a Dearly-loved Son," 2s.; "Working Lad's Mite," 1s. 6d.; W. O., 1s.; "Nunnery," 2s. 6d.; "Dover," 4s.; "Swiss Friend," 3s.; "Alas," 2s. 6d.

CCLXXXVI.—"West," £1; "Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; L. W. H. (Kensal Rise), 10s.; G. G. S., 1s.; "Somerset Footballer," 5s.; "Elstow," 1s.

We have this week divided £10 from the JOHN BULL Football Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund between CCLXXVI. and CCLXXXVI.

We have also apportioned £10 from the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—CCLVI., £2; CCLXV., £3; and CCLXXXV., £5.

COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work.

LONDON.—Mr. W. R. Perry, "Blue Post," Tottenham Ct. Rd., 2s. 2d.; Mr. A. Bellatti, "The Sadlers," Swallow St., 1s. 6½d.; Mrs. Bennet, "Coach and Horses," Bruton St., 2s. 6d.; Mr. H. Green, "Brownlow Arms," Betterton St., 2s. 6d.; Mr. G. Henwood, 61, Goodge St., Tottenham Ct. Rd., 2s. 7½d.; Mr. C. McCarthy, Messrs. Garcia Jacobs, and Co., Langley St., Covent Garden, £1 0s. 7½d.; Mr. E. Morgan, "The Blackstock," Morgan's Corner, Finsbury Park, 4s. 2d.; Mr. T. W. Porter, 714, Holloway Rd., 1s. 6d.; Mr. H. Thurston Burr, "Café Shamrock," 467, High St., Lower Edmonton, 2s.; Mr. Vernon Bishop, "Bunch of Grapes," Dering St., 1s.; Mr. W. Toser, "Cross Keys," Endell St., 1s. 1d.; "Teddy Bear," "The Angel," High St., Bloomsbury, 1s. 2d.; Mr. L. Beurrier, 28, Orange St., 1s. 1½d.; Mr. H. Beesley, 243, Junction Rd., Holloway, 1s. 1½d.; Mr. G. J. Bletsoe, 33, Canonbury Rd., 1s. 2d.; Mr. E. Walters, "Carpenters Arms," Catherine St., Buckingham Gate, 1s. 3d.; Mr. A. E. Fryer, "Angel," Lambeth Walk, 1s. 5½d.; Mr. Albin Fink, "The Bell," High St., Shoreditch 1s. 5d.; Mr. L. Hyman, 107, Virginia Rd., Bethnal Green, 1s.; Mr. W. J. Gowing, "King's Head," 26, Church St., Shoreditch, 1s. 2d.; Mr H. N. Morgan, "Crown and Shuttle," 220, High St., Shoreditch, 1s.; Mr J. Hume, "Dalby Tavern," Dalby St., Kentish Town, 1s. 1d.; Mr. A. Stribling, 33, Carlton Vale, Maida Vale, 1s. 2d.; Mr. W. Cooper, "Artichoke," Farringdon St., 1s. 3d.; Mr. J. Copestake, Professional Chauffeurs' Club, 185-7, Knightsbridge, 4s. 2d; Mr. A. J. Blowes, "Coville," King's Rd., Chelsea, 2s. 2d.; Mr. A. Heys, "Denbigh Arms," Denbigh Place, 2s.; Messrs. Bridge and Co., 43, Brompton Rd., 1s.; Quartermaster-Sgt. Smith, Sergeants' Mess, 22 Btn., London Regt. (Queen's), Drill Hall, Bermondsey, 2s. 10d.

PENARTH.—Mr. W. E. Jones, 37, Stanwell Road, £1 1s. 10½d.

ABERDEEN.—Mr. T. E. Warren, Sinclair Road, 7s. 6d.

LLENS.—Mr. S. Alban, 7, Camp Road, 1s. 1d.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. Henry Scott, 202, Rose Street, 1s. 6½d.; Mr. J. A Archibald, 30, St. Stephen Street, 1s. 6½d.

RHONDDA.—Mr. F Shortman, 67, Gelligaled Road, Ystrad, 2s. 8d.

BRISTOL.—Mr. W. J. Watzen, "Ye Grotto," 5s.; Mr E. B. Haynes, "Albion Hotel," Cumberland Rd., 1s. 9½d.

Total £5 18s. 10½d., of which we have allocated 25s. to CCLXXVII., 13s. 10½d. to CCLXXVIII., £2 to CCLXXXV., and £2 to CCLXXXVI.

"OFF THE STRENGTH."

We have allocated £3 from the JOHN BULL Football Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund to a poor woman at Brighton, with two children, to enable her to return to her home in Ireland—her husband, an artilleryman, married without leave, having been sent to India.

We have received from "Right Righted," the sum of 6d. on behalf of the poor woman whose case we referred to in our issue of December 27th, under the heading of "What a Life."

Another Great ONE WEEK Football Contest. £1,500 for a Coupon. See page 31.

—my advice as a hostess

EVERYONE who would like the Furniture in their home to be above criticism should go to the 'Hackney' Salons. They have without one shadow of doubt the most wonderful collection of Furniture in London.

If you want to be satisfied—if you want your money to go further—and if you want the most originally designed, elegant yet inexpensive furniture it is possible to buy, spend one short hour at the Hackney Galleries.

FREE TEA ROOM, WRITING ROOM, AND LOUNGE

A beautifully appointed Tea Room, Writing Room and Lounge is now open to all Visitors at our Oxford Street Showrooms.

Bedroom Suite in Oak. Dressing-table fitted with Swing Mirror, three Large Drawers and Trinket Drawer. Wardrobe fitted with large Bevel Plate Mirror. Washstand fitted with Marble Top and Tiled Back. Complete with two Chairs.

£8 15s. 0d.

GENERAL TERMS.

Worth.	Per Month.
£10	£0 6 0
20	0 11 0
30	0 17 0
40	1 5 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
1,000	22 10 0

Fumed Oak Bedstead, 4 ft. 6 ins. wide, strongly made and highly finished.

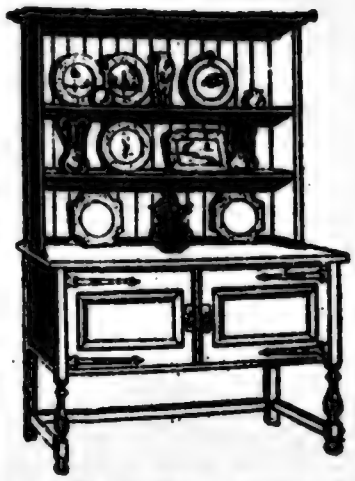
£2 2s. 0d.

We shall be pleased to pay your fare to our showrooms on any order amounting to £20 or over. We will accept very small monthly payments spread over one, two or three years, and any furniture obtained in this way will be insured free against fire. In addition we will give you a **Free Life Insurance** Policy which provides against the death of the hirer, the furniture at once becoming the property of the widow or children without further payment. May we post you our Catalogue?

A discount of 10 per cent. allowed for cash.

Latest design Roll Top Desk in Fumed Oak, fitted with pigeon-holes and drawers as illustrated.

£5 10s. 0d.



A simply designed Dresser in Fumed Oak, fitted with Cupboards as illustrated.

£4 4s. 0d.

Originators of the Deferred Payment System

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WEST END SHOWROOMS— **103 & 103a, OXFORD STREET, W.** Telephone: Ger. 5008, 5936.

CHIEF SHOWROOMS AND GALLERIES—

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MARE ST., HACKNEY.

Telephone: Dalston—2030 (4 lines.)

Branches: 448, High Road, Chiswick, W. (close to Turnham Green).
14, High Road, Chiswick, W. (3 doors from Young's Corner).
204, High Road, Streatham (facing library).
72, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, S.W.
56, George Street, Croydon. 110, High Street, Putney.

A. M. STEWART, Managing Director.

HOURS OF BUSINESS 9 till 9. Oxford Street: 9 till 8.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

[This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.]

To the Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P., President Board of Trade, Whitehall.

DEAR PRESIDENT,—As, notwithstanding my earnest recommendations to the populace, you have not been hanged up to the present, having apparently been respited by the Home Secretary, whom I also condemned to the gallows—on the principle, I suppose, that birds of a feather should *not* hang together—will you lend me, if not your neck, your ear?

The officers of the s.s. *Augustine*, of the Booth line, did courageous, self-sacrificing, and humane service in jumping from their vessel into a raging sea in order to rescue the crew of a foundering Greek steamer. When this splendid service on the part of these gallant British seamen came to the knowledge of the Greek Government, they decided to confer on Captain Forbes and his officers the Order of the Redeemer of Greece, a decoration which they would have been as proud to receive as the Greek Government were to give. It is difficult to understand why the Board of Trade—your department, sir—should wish to interfere in an affair of this kind; but when the Greek Government were about to make arrangements to confer the decoration you officially expressed disapproval of such high-classd decorations being conferred in such cases, with the result that silver medals—respectfully, but in the circumstances properly, refused by the intended recipients—were substituted.

I am told that those medals are still in the possession of the "Board," and I am sure Captain Forbes and his colleagues do not care whether they are in the coal cellar or at the bottom of the deep sea.

Let me make a suggestion. Have them struck off in putty—and distribute the replicas throughout your Department. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Postmaster-General, London.

DEAR P.M.G.,—Have you read of the attempted suicide of William Wibsey, of 173, Odessa Road, Forest Gate, described by his wife as "the best husband on the face of the earth, always bright and cheerful and eager for work"? According to his story, he was informed, after 24½ years' service, that some of his duties were to be taken away from him to make room for an old soldier, and that he would presently be replaced altogether. He tried to get other work, but failed; and without either friend or hope in the world as he saw it, he made an attempt on his life. And do you know what was the job the impending loss of which had stressed his mind in this way, Mr. Postmaster-General? "He used to earn 12s. 9d. a week, working sometimes from six in the morning till two the next morning," said the wife, and "now they have knocked it down 6s., and after I have paid Lloyd George there is not much left, is there?" I present this distressing case to you for inquiry and consideration. You remember what you told those deputations, don't you? JOHN BULL.

To William Yates, Esq., Motorist, Northwicke Hall, Worcester.

GENEROUS SIR,—My words to you must be of congratulation, with which I would mingle a note of caution. When driving a motor-car last summer, you were stopped by a policeman who threatened to report you for excessive speed. You thereupon produced your purse and presented the officer with ten shillings. It is not for me to analyse your motives. An assize jury, after mature consideration, has acquitted you of improper intent. I must therefore assume that you were bubbling over with the milk of human kindness and positively unable to restrain your generous impulses. Accept my friendly counsel, however, and for the future keep a firmer grip of your better nature. In the vernacular, don't try it on again. Not every jury is sufficiently versed in metaphysics to distinguish aright between a "bribe" and a "tip," especially when a gift of money is so inopportunely timed. Moreover, there are limits to the immunities conferred by residence in a "Hall." Keep your purse together, my boy. The game isn't worth the candle. JOHN BULL.

To Beach Chester, Esquire (by Act of Parliament!), Barrister-at-Law.

SIR,—What a despicable, cowardly creature you are! By some means you became acquainted with the daughter of a wealthy man, and made violent love to her. In a short time she desired to have nothing further to do with you, possibly having discovered your true character. Instead of going on your way in peace, you commenced to persecute her by bringing an action to recover damages for breach of promise—a form of action which, happily, it is rare for a man to take; seldom, indeed, can one be found sufficiently ungallant. Whether the lady ever promised to marry you is doubtful, particularly in view of the fact that, rather than appear in Court to substantiate your allegation, you took to your heels. But the lady was not prepared to let you off so easily. Unfortunately, you had letters from her which, knowing your nature, she feared you might use improperly, and insisted upon obtaining an order of the Court that you should give them up. Further, the Judge was not quite sure that the action was not an abuse of the process of the Court. On the facts as disclosed, I am of opinion that you are not a fit and proper person to remain a member of an honourable profession. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. A. W. Denman, Curate-in-Charge of Yafforth, Yorks.

REV. FRIEND,—A line of congratulation on the fact that you have completed twenty-five years' devoted spiritual and social service in your parish without remuneration and that your people have recognised your voluntary work for them and among them by presenting you with some suitable gifts. I imagine that you must be not only a Church record but a Church exhibit, and I expect that when your earthly task is over, you will be awarded either a stained-glass window or a glass case in the British Museum. Though to my mind every labourer is worthy of his hire, and need not be at all ashamed of taking it—at least, not unless he is an archbishop valued at £15,000 a year or a bishop valued at £10,000—I realise that, to a man of your high ideals and purposes, unremunerated service is not unremunerative after all, for you have always your sufficient reward in the joy of your own heart and the love and affection of your own people. That for many years to come you may be spared in your place among them is my sincere wish. JOHN BULL.

To Doctor John Wayte, Poplar Walk, Croydon.

SIR,—Without very substantial evidence I should be disinclined to believe that a man in your position could be so callous as to leave a lad he had negligently run down with his car, without making some inquiries as to his injuries—and then to attempt to establish the defence that there was no collision at all! Had it been merely a matter of your word against that of the youth Baker, the County Court Judge might have been led to a wrong conclusion, but there is no possibility of doubt when the evidence of yourself and your chauffeur was confronted with that of Baker and four other witnesses, two of whom were perfectly independent and disinterested.

It appears you turned into a road on your wrong side, and ran into Baker's bicycle. He was thrown off so that he struck his head on the bonnet of your car and was hurled back to the kerb. He managed to pick himself up and pointed out your fault, but you made no answer, did not trouble to inquire as to his injuries—which, as a doctor, you might have relieved—and drove off without more ado. You got off cheaply at £36. JOHN BULL.

To T. Duncombe Mann, Esq., Clerk to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, London.

MY DEAR SIR,—Several correspondents have written to ask whether it is true that your auspicious Board have decided to expend £131 10s., money of the long-suffering ratepayers of this metropolis, in providing the said Board with a new coat of arms. You will correct me if I am wrong, but I have informed them that they may rely upon the news without fear of contradiction; the gentlemen concerned being an Asylums Board. I have added that I should not be at all surprised if they have also given orders for the purchase of a new pair of trousers to match. JOHN BULL.

Please Note. "Bullets" Will Be Found on page 28 This Week.

THE SHADE OF PAUL KRUGER: "We said we'd 'sweep them into the sea,' and now, *at last*, we've done it!"

CURTAIN RAISERS.

BONUS TEA.

ACT I.

Scene:—*Street in poverty-stricken neighbourhood. Lady representative of the* Ureeka Tea Co. *calling at house of* Mrs. Harris, *a poor widow, who stands at door, with group of young children playing around her feet.*

Lady Representative (*persuasively*): Certainly two-and-four a pound may seem a high price to you, Mrs. Harris, but the difference between that and the price you usually pay, one-and-four, will really be a valuable investment. Not only is the tea of delicious aroma and exquisite flavour, but to each of our customers who agree to purchase two quarter-pound packets weekly we make a cash present of five pounds!

Mrs. Harris (*dubiously*): That sounds too good to be true, miss. However can your firm afford to do that?

Lady Representative: I will tell you—in confidence. It is because we do not spend money in advertising. Most tea companies squander thousands of pounds a year in advertising their wares. We do not. We find that it pays us equally well to supply our customers with a superior quality tea, and share with them, in the form of cash bonuses, the handsome profits we make.

Mrs. Harris: And when should I receive the five pounds, if I agree to buy your tea?

Lady Representative: All bonuses are paid in strict rotation, as the names of our regular customers appear on our books. But as you are the first I have called on in this town you would, of course, stand the first chance.

Mrs. Harris: Well, it sounds very reasonable and generous, I must say. I'll take the two packets a week, although it is a shilling a pound more than I usually pay. But five pounds would be a godsend to me, miss.

Act II.

Scene: *The same as Act I. Six months later. Enter* Landlord, *who raps at Mrs. Harris's door.*

Landlord: Morning, Mrs. Harris. Hope you've got your rent and the arrears ready this morning.

Mrs. Harris (*nervously*): I'm very sorry, sir, but I'm afraid it's sixpence short again. But I expect any day now to be able to make it up.

Landlord (*gruffly*): Now, Mrs. Harris, this won't do. Every week for the past six months you've been sixpence short in your rent. You are thirteen shillings behind, apart from what's due to-day, and you'll have to pay up, or clear out. I've been too easy with you.

Mrs. Harris (*tearfully*): If you'll only wait a little longer, sir! I've got five pounds coming to me. It may come any moment now, and then I will pay up.

Landlord (*reluctantly*): Well, I'll give you another week, then out you go. Understand that.

Act. III.

Scene: *The same. Two days later. Enter* Lady Representative.

Lady Representative: Good morning, Mrs. Harris. Here's your tea as usual.

Mrs. Harris: But where's my five pounds?

Lady Representative: I hope to be able to bring you that next week.

Mrs. Harris: That's what you've been telling me every week the last five months. I can't wait any longer. I've got behind with my rent through paying 2s. 4d. a pound for tea which is no better than I used to pay 1s. 4d. for, and now I must either have the money or stop taking the half-pound.

Lady Representative: You had better take it this week, at any rate, because I really believe it is your turn next for the bonus.

Mrs. Harris *reluctantly produces* 1s. 2d.

Act IV.

Scene: *Office (?) of the* Ureeka Tea Co. *Enter* Lady Representative.

Lady Representative (*to Proprietor*): You'd better cross Mrs. Harris's name off. She has commenced to jib.

Proprietor: Well, she's been good for six months. We'll shut up shop and shift from this part to-morrow. Rather too many dissatisfied customers knockin' about to be 'ealthy, wot? [Curtain.]

How to Pull the Big Money YOUR Way!

LIFE for every man who has to work for his living is one continual contest, with Success as the prize. In this contest the trained man wins, not because he has more brains, but because he knows how to use them.

IF you can bring trained intelligence into your work you are sure to advance. This doesn't mean that you must have an elaborate school or college education, but that you must have the good, sound, practical training which makes you a man who "can do things," which puts you in demand and in command. That is exactly the training the International Correspondence Schools give to their students.

PERHAPS you've never quite realised how easy it is to acquire this training? Mark the inquiry form below and find out. To do this costs you nothing, your request is for practical advice and information. It places you under no obligation. So do it now and learn how you can qualify for a better position in the occupation of your choice, how you can leave drudgery behind, how you can earn Promotion and Better Pay, no matter what your age, place of residence, or present occupation, and without interfering with your present work. Isn't it worth the postage?

WHAT better proof could be given of the practical and profitable nature of the training given by the I.C.S., than the fact, that during 1913 over 3,400 students of the Schools obtained promotion and better pay or secured new positions?

> "I have to thank you for the splendid position you have found me, which carries with it an increase of 25 per cent. on my last salary, and also offers better prospects. I have completed only part of my Course and I can honestly say that without it I should not have been successful. It has meant a sacrifice on my part, both time and money, but it has proved—as I was told it would—well worth while." I.C.S. Student E. HOPKINS, Willesden, London."

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd.,
129o, International Buildings, Kingsway, London.

(*To avoid delay please use our full address.*)

Please send I.C.S. Booklet explaining how I can gain a thorough, practical and up-to-date knowledge of the subject before which I have marked X, and so qualify for a Secure Position and Better Pay.

COMMERCIAL TRAINING

—Business Training	—Book-Keeping	—Salesmanship
—Advertising	—Show Card Writing	—Window Dressing

TECHNICAL TRAINING

—Boiler Engineering	—Mechanical Engineering	—Electric Lighting
—Marine Engineering	—Draughtsmanship	—Architecture
—Gas-Power Engineering	—Heating & Ventilating	—Contracting & Building
—Motor Engineering	—Sheet Metal Work	—Structural Engineering
—Cotton Manufacturing	—Shop Practice	—Concrete Engineering
—Woollen Manufacturing	—Foundry Work	—Civil Engineering
—Steam Engineering	—Electrical Engineering	—Quantity Surveying
—Steam Electric	—Electric Traction	—Mining

VARIOUS

—Illustrating	—Designing	—Applied Art
—French, German, Spanish, Italian		—Agriculture, Poultry Farming

Many other Courses to choose from.

Name .....

Address .....

£200 a year for 30 business questions?

A Situation at £200 a year offered to our readers by the great firm of A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

IF you are a man ambitious to succeed in the world of business, or if you are not already in receipt of more than £200 a year, or even if you wish to obtain a cash prize of £100, send the form at the foot of this page for full particulars of the most remarkable offer ever made to readers of this paper.

During 1914 the great firm of A. W. Gamage, Ltd., will require for a certain position on their staff a well-trained business man or woman. The commencing salary for one year certain will be £200 per annum, but the situation is an unusual one, and will offer scope for advancement to a higher position in one of the world's greatest and most enterprising organisations.

It has been decided to throw this appointment open to a competitive examination in general business knowledge, which will be conducted on behalf of Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., by the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd., of 54, Surrey Street, London, W.C., to whom all communications must be addressed.

Or £100 in Cash.

An alternative First Prize of £100 in Cash is offered in the event of the winner being already employed, or for some reason not desiring to take up such an important situation.

In addition there will be a Second Prize of £25 in cash, a Third of £10 in Cash, and nine other valuable prizes.

THE JUDGES.

The following well-known gentlemen have kindly consented to act as judges:—

Sir WILLIAM TRELOAR, Bart. (ex-Lord Mayor of London.)

Sir GEORGE RIDDELL (Director: News of the World, Ltd.; Director: Country Life, Ltd.)

Sir JOSEPH LYONS (Managing Director: J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.)

T. J. BARRATT, Esq. (Chairman: A. and F. Pears, Ltd.)

A. W. GAMAGE, Esq. (Managing Director: A. W. Gamage, Ltd.)

H. F. LE BAS, Esq. (Governing Director: Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.; Director: George Newnes, Ltd.)

These names and the fact that the Examination is being held for the purpose of finding the best man or woman for a post in a firm so justly renowned as that of Messrs. Gamage's are a sufficient guarantee of the fairness of the test.

Nature of the Examination.

The Examination will consist of 30 questions in Business Knowledge, and no question in it will be found beyond the capacity of an average business mind. As it is impossible to give here the whole of the particulars, a brief Prospectus has been prepared, indicating the character and scope of the Examination, which will be sent free of charge and without any obligation on receipt of the coupon at the bottom of the column.

It is distinctly understood that sending for the Prospectus of the Examination does not commit any reader to the intention of entering the Competition. You may be already engaged in business for your own benefit, or may be earning a higher salary.

Why You Should Enter.

But the Examination project will nevertheless interest you. You may wish to bring it to the attention of some employee, some junior, or some friend. It is quite certain that the research and thought which would be bestowed on business subjects will make your employee or subordinate more useful in his or her work.

Although you may not wish for the £200 salary, the alternative prize of £100 in money may appeal to you.

How It Concerns You.

But you, if engaged in business, will undoubtedly find the Examination interesting and informing. It will enlarge your views on Commercial Life. It will lead you to the consideration of problems which might never have occurred to you. It will unquestionably suggest new trains of business thought, and perhaps bring you into contact with ideas having practical value. Without consuming many hours of your time, it will offer you profitable recreation during the long evenings. And, in addition, there are eleven substantial prizes.

To the Ambitious Man or Woman.

But, on the other hand, if you are employed in work which does not give full scope to your talents, or are not paid according to your merits, or see no prospects and security of employment before you, this Business Examination offers a unique opportunity. The commencing salary is substantial, but it only represents the beginning of what a man or woman of thorough business training can aspire to.

The great house of Gamage's is world-famous for its fair dealing and enterprise, and for the excellence of the goods it sells. In 35 years the goodwill of its customers has built it up from a tiny shop to the huge organisation it is to-day. The offer of a responsible position in such a firm does not occur often. But for that very reason it is an opportunity that no ambitious man or woman ought to miss.

The Only Condition.

The only condition is that competitors must own the Business Encyclopædia, for Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., know from experience that the man or woman who possesses and studies this work is the best possible man or woman to fill a responsible post like the present one. If you are interested in the offer of a commencing salary of £200 a year (or alternatively £100 in money) and eleven other prizes, write at once for the Prospectus.

FREE BOOKLET.

This coupon entitles you to a full Prospectus of the Business Examination. It should be sent at once to avoid delay.

To THE CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, post free, and without any obligation on my part, full prospectus of the Business Examination for the position with A. W. GAMAGE, LTD., and particulars of the Business Encyclopædia, and of your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

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(Send this form or a postcard.)

ADDRESS .....

.....

THE GOLFER'S GRIEF.

"I'm sorry to hear, MacStymie, that you have lost your wife; you must have felt it very much."
"Ye're richt, sir, ye're richt. It quite put me off my drive."

LAYS OF A LOWLY LONDONER.

By Bill the 'Busman.

THE DEMON IN THE WHEEL.

If ever you have gripped the wheel
Of motor 'bus or car,
There's something tells you by the feel
What funny things they are.

We know 'tis but machinery,
Which does its job or shirks,
Yet all the same there seems to be
A soul within the works.

One time she answers to the touch
And runs free from the first;
Next moment, her behaviour's such,
She's like a thing accursed!

You're running smooth and think, serene,
That nought can you disturb,
Then all at once your darned machine
Begins to climb the kerb.

Your hand was steady on the wheel,
It neither moved nor shook;
All uncontrolled by you, the 'bus
Its own course promptly took.

Straight for the kerb the blamed thing goes,
The people wisely scatter,
Except the gaping jays who crowd
To see what is the matter.

Of course you pull her up in time,
For once her madness fails her;
It leaves you ruminating deep
Just what it is that ails her.

If you are lucky, that's the way
Her giddy tricks will go,
But, if a fellow's not in luck,
It isn't always so.

One of our men can't get a job
Because the tale is known
Of how his 'bus for one brief while
Would travel on her own.

Three seconds only was the jaunt,
But, ere the seconds flashed,
A lamppost and two men were downed,
A plate-glass window smashed.

'Twas not a bit the driver's fault,
Although they made him rue it;
He felt the 'bus leap to the work—
And she seemed glad to do it!

That's where it is. You're in control,
But all at once you feel
Your power gone—it's stolen by
The Demon in the Wheel!

THE COUNTESS AND "JOHN BULL."

AN APPRECIATION OF OUR "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

We have received the following letter from the Countess Weir, written from the Red House, Tisbury, Wilts.:—

> Countess Weir thanks John Bull or *Mary*, or both, very heartily for cheque for £1 duly received this morning. She would like to say how intensely interesting she finds the competitions, and what nice fireside occupations they are during the bitter winter evenings. A quite new subscriber, she thinks both papers the most interesting she has yet met with, *Mary's* cover being quite anticipated every Friday at "breakfast"—it is so "bonny."

"Bullets" is undoubtedly the competition for peeress or peasant.

Once Again We Offer £50 For a Mauve Coupon. See page 31.

S.H.B

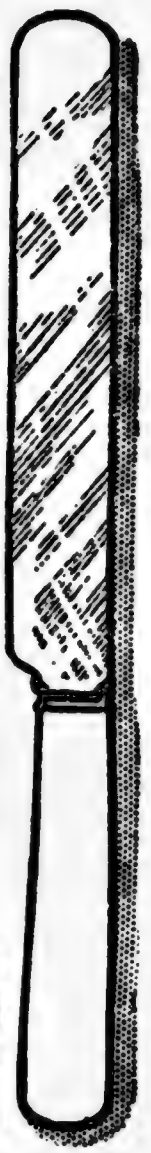
Four train loads of "long life!"

A sight to be seen at Colman's works at Norwich is four long lines of goods vans, laden with the fine yellow mustard flour that brings sound digestions and resultant long life.

The "All-Red Route" 'round the world is one source of pride. The "All-Yellow Route" run 'round the world every day in the year by Colman's Mustard is another.

. . . . . Are you a young man or woman? Then at every meal remember this: A touch of yellow mustard on the side of your plate will preserve the touch of rosy health in your cheeks when you are older.

"A mustard spoon in the hand is worth two 'tonics' in the future."



Colman's D.S.F. Mustard

WASTING AWAY.

Hopelessly Paralysed and Kidneys Affected—Fed as he Lay. Another Miraculous Cure by Dr. Cassell's Tablets.

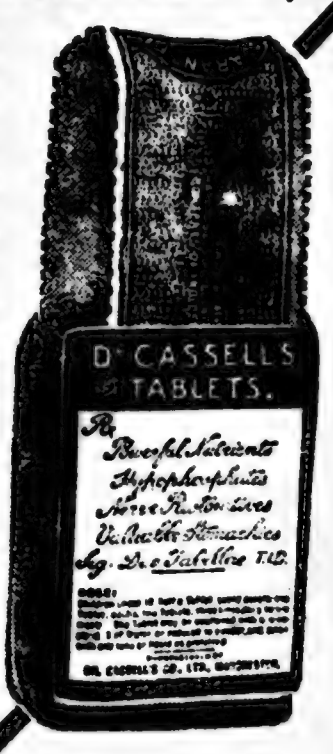
One of the most remarkable recoveries from spinal paralysis ever recorded is that of the little 9-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. M'Kean, of 13, Greenbank Street, Rutherglen. The case was considered hopeless, and death thought to be inevitable, yet Dr. Cassell's Tablets restored the child to bright, active, health.

Master M'Kean, Rutherglen.

Speaking to an interviewer recently, Mrs. M'Kean said:—"About three years ago I noticed that my little boy—he was then six—was losing the power of his limbs and back. This grew steadily worse till the whole of one side was paralysed. He could not stand, could not move a muscle of the arm and leg affected.

"We took him to the infirmary, where he was detained, but came out as bad as ever. We continued to take him there as an out-patient, but no good came of it. He was in great pain at times, and he got so low and weak that he could take nothing solid, and had to be kept alive on soda and milk, with a few drops of brandy added. Naturally he wasted to a shadow, we were almost afraid to turn him in bed. His bowels and kidneys were affected, and altogether he was in a pitiable condition. For eight whole months we had to feed him as he lay.

"We never thought he could possibly recover. But in the end we got Dr. Cassell's Tablets. Then the change came. He began to eat, and gradually to brighten up and put on flesh. Soon power returned to his arms and legs, and after quite a short course of Dr. Cassell's Tablets he was able to run about again and play."



SEND FOR A FREE BOX.

Send your name and address and two penny stamps for postage, etc., to Dr. Cassell's Co., Ltd. (Dept. A.44), Chester Road, Manchester, and you will receive a trial box free.

Dr Cassell's Tablets

strengthen and restore every organ of the body, re-establish the vital forces, give tone to the nerves, and generate new life for the whole system. Cure after cure has proved them the surest of all remedies for Nervous Breakdown, Nerve and Spinal Paralysis, Infantile Paralysis Neurasthenia, Nervous Debility, Sleeplessness, Anæmia, Kidney and Stomach Disorders, Children's Weakness, Brain Fag, and all run-down conditions. They are quite safe for even the youngest child or most delicate invalid. All chemists sell Dr. Cassell's Tablets, at 10½d., 1/1½d., & 2/9—the 2/9 size is the most economical to buy.

POLITICAL PATTER.

MR. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P.

(*Sings*) Taffy is a Welshman,
And Taffy is the chief
Of Liberal politicians,
Who give the poor relief;
I belong to Taffy's house—
A fact I'm proud to own;
For Taffies manage, as a race,
To grab the marrow bone!

Yes, I wass proud, look you, of my Welsh plood. We wass a smart people, look you, whateffer. There wass Lloyd George, look you. He wass smart, aye. And there wass Ellis Jones Griffith. He wass smart too, aye, indeed. And then there wass me, Aneurin Williams, M.P., look you, great-grandson of Iolo Morganwg, and as smart, indeed, as they wass make them, whateffer. Aye, indeed. (*A voice:* Git on with it!) I wass get on with it, look you. I wass a come to tell you about myself. I wass not always a politician, look you. I wass a parrister, aye, indeed, and pusiness man. I wass had no political ambition till the time of the Concentration Camps in South Africa whateffer. (*A voice:* 'Ave a leek!) I wass have a leek for my dinner, look you. But I wass telling you about myself, look you; aye, indeed, pefore I fought North-West Durham. I wass write an article for the *Encyclopædia Britannica* on Co-operative Societies, look you. (*A voice:* Wot erbout Co-operative maggits?) That wass an insult, look you, aye, indeed. (*A voice:* Say somethink to make us larf!) It wass not my pusiness to make you laugh, look you. I wass a political reformer, aye, indeed. I wass believe in a small Navy. I wass opposed to the South African war. (*A voice:* Wot erbout Brother Bore nar?) I wass believe in Home Rule, aye, indeed; and Welsh Disestablishment, look you. (*A voice:* 'Oo wants to rob the pore Welsh curate?) I wass supported by the *Daily News*, look you. (*A voice:* Then *vore* number's up!) So I wass come to fight North-West Durham in the Liberal interest, look you. (*A voice:* They don't want no furriners in them parts.) I wass the pest representative for the miners, aye, indeed. (*A voice:* Pest is right!) I wass reform them from their wicket ways, look you, and give them a garden city, and—(*A voice:* Co-operative maggits!) and co-partnerships; and, look you, I wass do myself a pit of good too, aye, indeed, for I'm a Welshman, look you—aye, indeed,

(*Sings*) Taffy is a Welshman,
And Taffy is the chief
Of Liberal politicians,
Who give the poor relief;
I belong to Taffy's house—
A fact I'm proud to own;
For Taffies manage, as a race,
To grab the marrow bone!

THE UNTROUSERED TANGO.

[*Trousers are quite inappropriate to the contortions of tango dancing, but the kilt, according to the "Tailor and Cutter," meets all requirements.*]

A first class band may play its best,
As gaily as it can go,
But what of that if some stray guest
Declines to dance the tango?

He stands against the wall and stares,
Just watching others prancing;
At every query he replies,
"No, thus; I am not dancing."

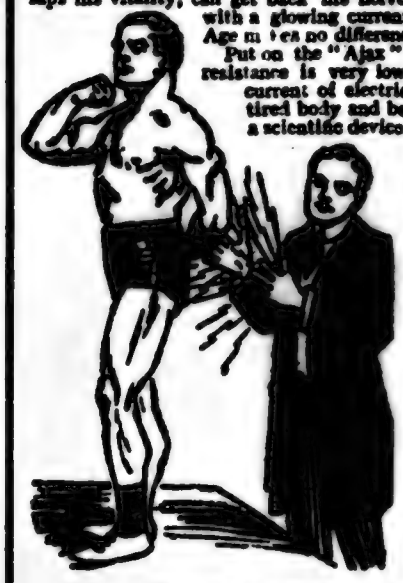
"Do take your place," his cronies urge,
"Don't stand there on the watch, man!"
He will not from the spot emerge,
He says, "I'm not a Scotchman,"

The pretty girls are tempting him,
Like gingerbread with gilt on;
But there he stands, stock-still and grim—
He hasn't got a kilt on!

His hostess, with appealing eyes,
The youth to speech arouses;
"Come, dance!" she says; and he replies,
"No, ma'am—not in these trousers!"

YOU CAN
"COME BACK"
NOT TOO OLD AT 60.

Any man who suffers from lost strength, nervous debility, or any weakness that saps his vitality, can get back his nerve and ambition by saturating his body with a glowing current of electric life for an hour each day. Age makes no difference.



Put on the "Ajax" Body Battery and lie down (the body resistance is very low when resting), turn on the animating current of electricity, and thus pump new vim into your tired body and become a vigorous man. The "Ajax" is a scientific device for infusing the nerves and vitals with a powerful but soothing current of electricity, without the least shock.

It is beneficial to the weakest person, even where the heart is affected. It is not similar to electric belts, hand batteries, shocking coils, or other things you may have seen or used. It gives a continual current (under perfect control) without charging or preparation of any kind. It forces a cure by renewing the vitality and energy of every weak and inactive organ. Where there is plenty of electricity weakness and disease cannot exist.

We know what the "Ajax" Battery has done for others, and we believe that it will do as much for you. Our belief in it is sincere. We won't sell it unless we feel, after studying your ailments, that we can cure you.

CALL OR WRITE FOR OUR FREE BOOK.

Our 80 page illustrated book about electric treatment is written in plain language, showing just how electricity cures. It contains many facts worth knowing. If you write for it at once we'll send it in a plain, sealed envelope. It doesn't cost you a penny. Call at the Institute if you can. Advice free.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE
(Dept. 41). 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

AJAX LTD

FIELD GLASSES THIS WEEK. Selfridge's GLASSES, and, of course, superior.

¶ The Field Glass we wish to tell you about is our new Prismatic (Stereoscopic Model).

¶ Has a magnification of 8 diameters and is designed to give crispness of definition combined with brilliant illumination.

¶ Adjustable eyepiece for eyes of unequal focus and also bending bars to suit different features.

¶ Complete with two slings and best quality Brown or Black Hide case. 55/-.

SELFRIDGE & Co., Ltd., Oxford St., London, W.

HOW I SAVED MY HAIR.

"My hair was thin, short, dry and brittle. Every time I combed or brushed it large quantities came out, and I had begun to fear that soon I should be entirely bald. A specialist whom I consulted said mine was a particularly bad case of dandruff—so bad that he knew of only one thing which he could hope would overcome the trouble and restore my scant tresses to their former luxuriance and beauty. He told me to get my chemist to prepare a lotion composed of three ounces of bay rum, one ounce lavona de composee and quarter dram menthol crystals, and to rub this into the scalp twice a day with the finger tips. I was sceptical, but did as I was told. To my delighted astonishment I soon noticed that my hair had stopped falling out, and in a few weeks my head was covered with a new growth of downy hair. I continued the use of the lotion until I possessed a head of hair, all my own, that is the wonder of all my friends. My specialist says he has known of many cases similar to mine, and in every instance the results have been truly marvellous. He says this is the greatest hair-growing formula every known. It has done so much for me that I hope you will publish this for the benefit of those who want to save their hair."—R. C. R.

I will tell you exactly why—

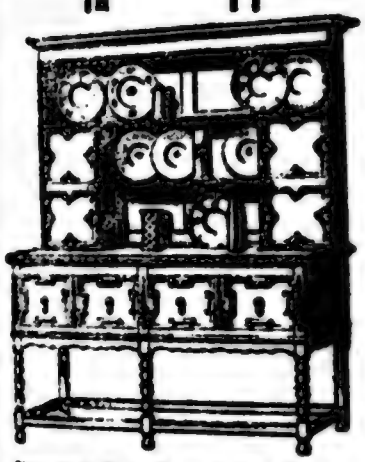
you ought to go to the "Midland" for your furniture.

You get the *widest possible choice*, because there is over £100,000 worth of beautiful furniture permanently on view in the "Midland" Furniture Salons.

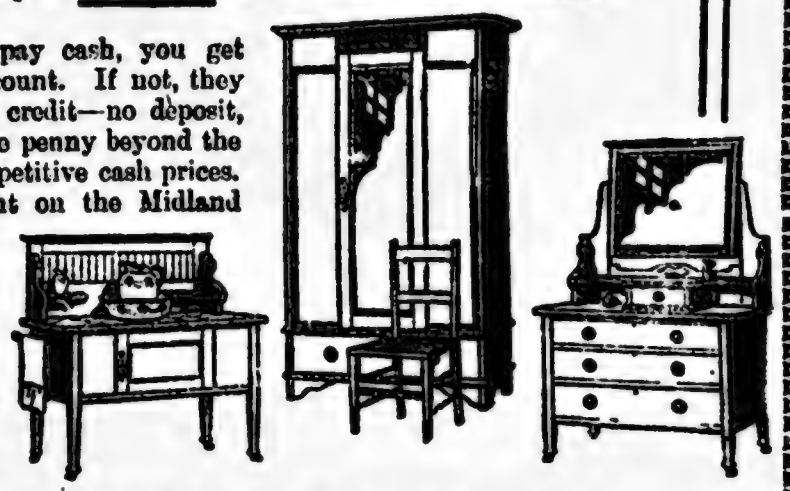
You get the *finest possible value*, because the "Midland" are actual manufacturers, and so eliminate intermediate profits. That is why

Money buys more at the "Midland"

If you wish to pay cash, you get 10% additional discount. If not, they charge nothing for credit—no deposit, no interest—not one penny beyond the plainly marked competitive cash prices. All furniture bought on the Midland Ideal Terms is **insured against fire; and, should the purchaser die, all the furniture becomes the absolute property of the wife without further payment.**



Exceptionally well made Oak Dresser in Jacobean lines, beautifully carved, and polished a rich antique brown. It is 5 ft. wide and 6 ft. 8 ins. high, and has 2 drawers and 2 cupboards with antique brass fittings. **£9 9s. 0d.**



This charming Bedroom Suite is made in walnut, satin walnut, or oak, and comprises a commodious Wardrobe with full length mirror, Dressing-table, Washstand with marble top and tiled back, and one Chair. **£9 19s. 6d.**

"The Denham."
A well-made and thoroughly comfortable Easy Chair, covered in various patterns of cretonne. Well sprung, and fitted with loose cushion. **£2 18s. 0d.**

Railway Fares Paid.

Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed free and carriage paid.

Write for the "Midland" Book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume—the finest and most comprehensive guide to Furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in our Furniture Salons. The book will be sent free on receipt of a postcard with your address.

Write for it to-day.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Contractors to H.M. Crown Agents for the Colonies,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Hours—9 till 8. Sats.—9 till 1.

7 doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station.
1 minute from British Museum Tube Station.

Managing Director, **GEORGE MICHAEL,** *who has been associated with the business for 40 years.*

Ideal Terms.

Worth.	Per Month.
£10...	£0 6 0
£20...	0 11 0
£30...	0 17 0
£40...	1 5 0
£50...	1 8 0
£100...	2 5 0
£200...	4 10 0
£500...	11 5 0

Larger amounts pro rata.

5% Additional Discount for Cash

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"I am taking your valuable book every week and I see you are a man for picking up any case that is nesessary for the benefit of the public and I am able to make your book more valuable and interesting to the public I am willing to give you every week a little of my history what will be a great benifit to the country I am a great expert. I am a doctor of the land I studied for 40 years upon all kinds of market garden produce, fruit, and flowers. I kill all blights, insects, and diseases in the land. I should save the farmers every year in England alone not including wales, Scotland or Ireland, close to a million a year on potatoes alone. I am willing to give you my travels in all parts of the world since I was 14 years of age. My life of travels and shipwrecks and accident would fill a page of your book every week, for 12 months."

"Being a subscriber to your valuable and straight forward speaking paper for a number of years I ask you Sir if you will do me a great favour and let me know the distance and the nearest route from the Elephant and Castle Public-house to the Angel at Islington?"

PRESERVE US FROM OUR FRIENDS!

A Scunthorpe reader "Pities the Poor Editor" sufficiently to trouble to send us the following solution to the conundrum regarding mixed relationship propounded for our solution and which we published in our issue of January 10th:—

> The following remarkable genealogical curiosity appeared originally in *Hoods' Magazine* (no date mentioned), and is a singular piece of reasoning to prove that a man may be his own grandfather.
>
> "There was a widow (Ann) and her daughter (Jane) and a man (George) and his son (Henry). The widow married the son, and the daughter married the son's father. The widow was therefore mother (in-law) to her husband's father, and grandmother to her own husband. By this husband she had a son (David) to whom she was also great grandmother. Now the son of a great-grandmother must be grandfather or grand-uncle to the person to whom his mother was great-grandmother; but Anne was great-grandmother to him (David), therefore David was his own grandfather."

We are afraid we must still cry "Help!"

OUR (MAD) POET'S CORNER.

THE HUSTLER HUSTLED.

The Boss sat at his rolled-top desk,
And said, "My clerks are far too slow";
And with a gesture of disgust
Rang for his chief from down below.

"Look here, Jones," said the beefy Boss,
"I've noticed lately little hustling:
So an alteration must be made
To bring about a constant bustling.

"From desk to cabinet or safe
Each clerk must fly on roller skates:
And wires must be affixed, to shock
The moment lightning speed abates.

"From nine o'clock till closing time,
A breathless pace must be kept up;
And till the last big job is cleared,
No one must stay for bite or sup."

But the first day these rules were law,
The office-boy, with eager zest,
Crashed through the door upon his skates,
And caught the Boss full in the chest.

They fell, a heap; the boy, unharmed;
But in the Boss's shining pate,
A gash beyond the doctor's skill
Hustled him up to Peter's gate.

INDIGESTIBLE FOODS MADE HARMLESS.

CORRESPONDENT TELLS HOW DYSPEPTICS CAN EAT ANY FOOD WITH NO DISCOMFORT WHATEVER AFTERWARDS.

In an article which appeared recently in *Medical Notes*, a list of foods was given and the time taken in digesting them was stated. The writer noticed that aciduous foods in some cases were stated to take as long as five hours to digest, and being a sufferer from acidity and extremely anxious to avoid any diet that would increase the unpleasant condition, I decided to consult a well-known stomach specialist on the matter. To my great surprise this physician stated that I could eat any food I wished without suffering any ill effect afterwards if I would follow his advice. He explained that the majority of foods contain a certain quantity of acidity—this quantity is greater in foods we call indigestible. "But," he added, "if you go to any chemist and purchase a small supply of ordinary bisurated magnesia and take a teaspoonful in a quarter glass of water after each meal, also before going to bed, you will find that it thoroughly neutralises the acid and absolutely prevents all food fermentation. You will be able to eat what you fancy and enjoy it with the knowledge that you will have no discomfort afterwards." Be sure, however, to get the "bisurated," as other forms are unsuitable for this purpose. I have since followed his advice and I have found his words perfectly true. I no longer suffer from repeating food, flatulence, or in fact any of the disagreeable conditions which result from acidity and food fermentation, for no matter how indigestible and acid any food may be, bisurated magnesia acts as a perfect food corrective. If any of your readers suffer from acidity in any of these forms, I strongly recommend their trying this excellent preparation for themselves.—W. A., Streatham, London, S.W.

HOW TO GET FAT AND BE STRONG.

The trouble with most thin folks who wish to gain weight is that they insist on drugging their stomach with tonics, or by stuffing it with greasy foods, or by guzzling ale, stout, or milk. Such methods are invariably useless.

It is impossible to get fat until your digestive tract assimilates the food you eat. If your assimilative organs are right you will get fat by eating even the plainest of food.

If you want to gain 15 or 20 lbs. of good healthy flesh in as many days without any trouble or annoyance, get about 2s. 6d. worth of ordinary Sargol tablets from your chemist, and chew one up with every meal. You will simply be astonished to see how quickly you will start to fatten up. Don't waste any more time or money on Patent Flesh Foods, or in following some foolish diet system. Sargol by its regenerative power enables the stomach to literally soak up the fattening elements of your food and pass them into the blood, where they are carried to every starved, brokendown cell and tissue of your body.

You may eat what you like and when you like it. Sargol will enable you to get fat and be strong, because it will enable you to get all the strength and fat-making elements from the food you eat.

No matter how thin you are, or what the cause of your thinness is from, you should give this prescription a week's trial and find out for yourself on your chemist's scales that you are putting on weight at the rate of nearly a pound a day.

CATARRH

The accompanying illustration shows how Dr. Blosser's Catarrh Remedy reaches all parts of the head nose, throat, and lungs that become affected by catarrh.

This remedy, composed of herbs, leaves, flowers, and berries containing no tobacco or habit-forming drugs is smoked in a clean pipe or made into a cigarette tube. The medicated fumes are inhaled in a perfectly natural way.

A five days' free trial, a small pipe, and also an illustrated booklet explaining catarrh, will be mailed upon request. Simply write a postal card or letter to

Dr. BLOSSER, Ltd.,
Dept. 21G., 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.

MAKE MORE MONEY BY LEARNING TO DRAW

Our Booklet "S" sent post free, will tell you how. Write to-day to Secretary, ABC School of Drawing, 46 Chancery Lane, London, England.

CAN YOU DEPEND ON A DOCTOR?

A Remarkable Work.

By Dr. ANDREW WILSON.

Can you always depend on a doctor? It is a serious question that vitally concerns everyone, and particularly all parents. In nine cases out of ten the answer is "No!" Some time or another an accident will happen when he is out of reach, and in such a case what would you do?

Suppose, for instance, an accident happened in your own house. Just run over the list of common accidents and see what you could do to help. You will probably find there is very little, indeed, that you *could* do, and you will realise how vitally valuable even a little medical knowledge would be to you in such a case.

First Aid and Ambulance.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, the famous physician, has written a book, the "Modern Physician," specially to provide this knowledge. It tells in simple language everything about the commoner ailments of life. It tells you not only how to cure sickness, but also how to avoid it. It has articles on the choice of food and clothing; on air, exercise., sleep, and many other subjects of vital importance to the preservation of health, including invaluable advice on first aid in every possible emergency.

The Health of Women.

One whole volume is devoted to that most important of subjects, the health of women and children. This section is of inestimable advantage to any mother in maintaining her own and her family's health. Midwifery and the diseases of infancy and childhood are all covered fully.

An Abridged Synopsis of Contents will serve to give some idea as to how complete is its plan:

Birth and Disease—The Human Skeleton—General Diseases: Their Cause, Prevention, and Cure—Nerves: Chemical Composition of the Body—Digestive System: Diseases and Derangements thereof—Diseases of the Skin—Diseases of the Kidneys—Animal Parasites and the Diseases they Cause—Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye, Ear, Throat, etc.—Ambulance and First Aid Work: Directions for every emergency.—The Heart—Circulation of the Blood: Diseases of the Heart and Blood—Lungs and Functions of Breathing—Principles of Hygiene—Structure and Function of the Brain—Nervous System—Infection and Disinfection—The Germ Theory—Tropical Diseases—Family Medicine Chest: Drugs, Lotions, Ointments, Gargles, etc.—Home Nursing—Physical Culture—Massage—Hydropathy—Electrical Treatment—Special Features of Woman's Life—Ailments of Pregnancy—Complications of Labour—Diseases of Women—Care of Infants—Hygiene of Infancy—Infantile Ailments—The Toilet and Health.

Mr. WM. WEBB, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool, writes:—

"'The Modern Physician' ought to be in every household in the land, and it is certainly no fault of yours should it not be so, for the price at which it is published is reasonable and the terms of subscription exceptionally easy."

FREE BOOKLET.

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated booklet on "The Modern Physician," and particulars of your plan whereby the volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

LEARNING MUSIC WITHOUT A TEACHER.

A Remarkable Letter.

"Dear Sir,—I must write and tell you what a tremendous help I am finding the Musical Educator. Being unable to have lessons for five months, I stopped all other work and diligently studied your exercises, with the result that my master cannot think what I have been doing to advance so much without him."

This remarkable letter from Mrs. E. Birch, of Lygon Place, Grosvenor Gardens, W., will be of considerable interest to the many readers of this paper who have wished they could play the piano or some other musical instrument, but have not been able to take lessons. It shows them that at last a book has been published which really does enable one to learn to sing or to play in one's own home without the expense and trouble of taking lessons.

First Payment 1/6 only.

This book is the 'Musical Educator," which any of our readers can obtain for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only. It provides in compact and interesting form a complete musical education, written by many of the greatest of modern authorities. To take personal lessons from them would mean paying extremely high fees, for they include such famous musicians as Paderewski, Mark Hambourg, Caruso, Clara Butt, Madame Marchesi, John Dunn, Edwin H. Lemare, Sir F. H. Cowen.

But these are only eight out of many sections of this remarkable work, and it is obvious that no reader who wishes to learn music or to improve his or her present knowledge can afford to be without the "Musical Educator," particularly when it can be obtained so easily and so cheaply. But in order that our readers may learn all about the work before actually buying it, the publishers have prepared an interesting illustrated booklet describing it in full, which they will send free of charge on receipt of the form below. It should be sent at once to avoid delay.

Two Opinions.

SIR J. FREDERICK BRIDGE (Organist at Westminster Abbey) says:—

"The 'Musical Educator' is full of useful information plainly set forth. The musical illustrations are excellent."

Mr. D. JESSOP, Conductor of the Cleethorpes Choral Society, writes:—

"I would like to let you know how pleased I am with the Musical Educator. The articles are very fine indeed and I find it a very handy work that ought to be on the library of every musician."

FREE BOOKLET.

The Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, Detailed Prospectus of "The Musical Educator," and particulars of your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

CAN YOU DRIVE A MOTOR CAR?

An Indispensable Work for Every Owner, Driver, or Chauffeur.

FIRST PAYMENT 1/6 ONLY.

The time is past when it required an expert engineer to drive a car, but a working knowledge of the various parts of a car and their functions is still essential to really successful driving, and the importance of this work to every owner and driver of a motor-car, cycle, or cycle-car can hardly be over-estimated.

The Book of the Motor-Car is the first really comprehensive work on motor-cars, motor-cycles, and cycle-cars ever published. By the careful study of its chapters the rawest amateur can learn the principles upon which his car works, but at the same time it is so comprehensive and so striking in its detail that even the skilled expert will find it a book of enthralling interest and extreme utility, while the practical motorist will find it quite indispensable. It should be as much a part of the equipment of a garage as an oil-can or a lifting-jack.

Driving and Repairs.

The Book is full of invaluable information on all problems of driving and repairing a car, instructions being given for all possible difficulties in language that can be understood by the most unmechanical mind. The following are a few of the subjects dealt with:—

Cylinders, valves of all kinds, different types of engines, carburettors, ignition, silencers, gears and clutches, radiators, cooling systems, brakes, lubricators, lighting systems, artillery and wire wheels, tyres, fuels and how to use them (including all the new petrol substitutes), tools and repair appliances, etc., etc.

Cycle-Cars and Motor-Cycles.

The work pays full attention to motor-cycles and cycle-cars, full details and instruction being given for all those points wherein they must be treated differently from the more powerful motor-car.

It is profusely illustrated with full-page plates, drawings in plan, section and elevation, diagrams and photographs, as well as a series of sectional movable models in colour showing in detail the actual working parts of a car.

Mr. CHARLES JARROTT writes:—

"I think 'The Book of the Motor Car' invaluable. As a book of reference it will be of great value to me and everyone who is keenly interested in their car should have a copy."

FREE BOOKLET.

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated booklet giving full particulars of "The Book of the Motor-Car" and your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard)

Address .....

MOST MONEY PRIZES!

8,073 CASH AWARDS AND 2,000 OTHER HANDSOME PRIZES THIS WEEK.

"BULLETS" awards twice as many Prizes weekly as any other Competition.

First Prize. **£500** **First Prize.**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

500 Prizes of 5s.	2,500 Prizes of 2/6

AND

2,000 OTHER HANDSOME PRIZES.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

INCREASED ESTIMATES	NEIGHBOUR'S BABY	PUT OFF	CHILDISH TEARS
BACK TO WESTMINSTER	ARMY ORDERS	A RIGHT CUT	FALSE STEP
PENNY SHAVE	BOARD AND LODGING	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	ARMCHAIR CRITICS
HOUSEHOLD WORDS	BREAKING RUGS	HALVED CUT	PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE
DEPORTED LEADER	NOT DRESSED	WIFE SUSPECTS	MOST EXCITING WHEN
WHILE LOVE LASTS	STRIKING BLUNDERS	VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT	GOOD BUSINESS
OLD SOLDIER	A BIG PURSE	THE NEW SLAVERY	AGE LIMIT
WHAT HUSBY THINKS	CHARGING HARDS	BANK FAILURE	WRITING HOME
TAKING DISPOSITION	NOBODY LIKES	SPINSTER'S HOPE	LEFT BEHIND
THE OFFICIAL CLASHES	NEVER FAILS	VERY NEAR	COMES TO GRIEF

How to Make Bullets. First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST AND LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "COMES TO GRIEF," and take the letters "S" and "F," using the word "AFTER" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "SPECULATOR AFTER FLUTTER."

From the example "MOST EXCITING WHEN" the Bullet "CONVICT ESCAPES" can be formed.

Again, if you choose the example "NOBODY LIKES," using the letter "S" for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet "SACK WHEN STRONG."

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see the "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, February 11th.

Example.....

Bullet.....

Example.....

Bullet.....

(71) P.O. No.....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

Signed.....

Address.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated February 14th.

Closing date, Wednesday, February 11th.

Example.....

Bullet.....

Example.....

Bullet.....

(71) P.O. No.....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page

Signed.....

Address.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 71," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

"BULLETS" RULES

(Which must be strictly adhered to).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best [illegible] received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding [illegible] originality and neatness will be taken into account. The right is [illegible] divid[illegible] a prize or prizes among fewer or more competitors than [illegible] reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons [illegible] page, and only two attempts may be sent on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be [illegible] posted by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, [illegible] crossed [illegible] & Co. Competitors must write their names and [illegible] address [illegible] & Co. and the date of sending the order in the [illegible] book of the postal order, and the number of which must be [illegible] noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be disfigured in any manner, or have pasted [illegible] of unofficial coupons pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post in the morning of Wednesday, February 11.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet receives a full [illegible] careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been selected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff [illegible] sends all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious [illegible] quality for a prize. So that, before any coupon is selected [illegible] DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to secure a prize. Then all coupons selected are examined by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to coupons of [illegible] equal number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the [illegible] outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of Judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually employed the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. [illegible] point out that, by this system of Judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work [illegible] it can score with a cash or any other prize. As regards the [illegible] prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered [illegible] times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and [illegible] Adjudicators' staff in consultation, before the final award is made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, re-read and re-considered, by a specially selected staff of highly qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of [illegible] experienced Competition Experts—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill competition free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

Result of 68th Bullets Competition

£503

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

Mr. GEORGE F. S. HILL,
Beech Bank,
Ulverston, Lancs.

Example:—BITTER ENEMY.
Bullet:—TO MATERNITY—MODERNITY.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. A. H. T. STREETER,
145, Clarence Road,
Grays, Essex.

Example:—NICE YOUNG MAN.
Bullet:—INCOME?—COME IN!

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. G. HENRY,
c.o. Eggleston and Son,
Westgate, Dewsbury.

Example:—GROUND LANDLORD.
Bullet:—"DRAWS" FROM NATURE.

CONTINUATION OF WINNERS p. 31.

A FURTHER LIST OF PRIZEWINNERS ON PAGE 31.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—
Is the builders' strike a "put-up" job?
Will the coal-porters find a "weigh out"?
Will Keir Hardie give his legacy to "the Cause"?
If Ulster cannot be bought, may she not be "sold"?
Shouldn't the Home Rule "problem" be "given up"?
Would Austen "stand" if he wasn't sure of the "seat"?
Didn't the M.C.C. team make a bad "miss" at Bloemfontein?
Is "The Music-Cure" Shaw's first "piece of utter nonsense"?
Do you know how to turn silver into gold? See page 28.
Aren't the South African Labour leaders very much "put out"?
Did Mr. Balfour learn about "pitch and toss" at Westminster?
Wouldn't a General Election before the football season is over be unwise?
Cannot some recent boxing "spectacles" be easily "seen through"?
If the Government cannot "trust the people," how can it expect to get credit itself?
The Greenwich Magistrate defines neurasthenia as "a disinclination to work." But that is only when common folk have it.

• • •

"Dam Burst," reads a heading. Neatly put.

• • •

In the Stone Age there was plenty of rag-time.

• • •

Columbus set the ball rolling, and got to the goal.

• • •

The result of a Roman chariot race was seen in the stop press.

• • •

In ancient times the enemy often got home by catching a General.

• • •

We read of stranded actors being housed in stables. Filling the stalls.

• • •

We hear of a poetic pauper. A change from his prosy surroundings.

• • •

The only trouble about the fire of genius is that it is easily "put out."

• • •

"Larkin Goes Too Far," reads a headline. He couldn't—to please us.

• • •

The missing Fleet Paymaster has been arrested. He was not fleet enough.

• • •

A woman in New York broke her leg through slipping down the tango step.

• • •

Cherry Pie won a race at Haydock Park. We wish we had had a cut at it.

• • •

A stag in Buckinghamshire took refuge in an inn. A buck in an inn in Bucks.

• • •

"Men love mostly in the plural," says a writer. Yes, but some have singular tastes.

• • •

"Square Pegs," is the name of a new book. We hope a good story is hung on them.

• • •

The Archbishop of Paris says the tango is immoral. Then why help to keep it alive?

• • •

"Jury in a pit," we read. They are usually privileged to witness the drama from a box.

• • •

As the income-tax becomes due, many refer to the Chancellor by his full name—D. Lloyd George.

• • •

"Are You a Barometer?" an article is headed. Many show evidence of the lowered glass.

• • •

"Are Medicines too Dear?" asks an advertisement. On the contrary, they are cheap—and nasty.

• • •

"Life is a bargain counter," says a contemporary. Yes, few of the things are worth the price.

• • •

Every man who goes with Sir Ernest Shackleton will be a cook. This should give him a wide range.

• • •

A Northants man has obtained thirteen chickens out of a sitting of twelve eggs. How very unlucky!

Printer's Pie.

(THE WORK OF THE "DEVIL.")

"DAILY NEWS" heading :—
"Popular Microbes. Audience of 2,000 at a Blackpool Lecture."

"BOY'S FRIEND LIBRARY" :—
"One of them pinioned her arms to her SIDES with a piece of rope; the other one served her LEGS in the SAME manner.

"MONTEVIDEO" (South America) "TIMES" :—
"Aunt Charlotte caught a CHILD and was confined to her bed."

"AUTOCAR" :—
"Surrounding Coventry there are many UNIMPORTANT towns and villages, INCLUDING such places as LEAMINGTON and BIRMINGHAM."

"CROYDON TIMES" report :—
"The off-side animal was an aged mare in GOOD condition, LAME on the off-fore leg, and SUFFERING FROM AN OLD SORE ON THE SHOULDER AND OLD STANDING RINGBONE."

"DAILY TELEGRAPH" :—
"His Excellency the GERMAN EMPEROR (his Serene Highness PRINCE LICHNOWSKY) placed a wreath in the Royal Mausoleum."

"BRIGHTON HERALD" report :—
"The plaintiff . . . claimed from Mr. Frederick Roberts . . . £30, the price of a SECOND-HAND OFFICER'S Royal Artillery Uniform."

"DAILY CITIZEN" report of evidence at the inquest on little Willie Starchfield :—
"She saw a man and a small boy walking hand in hand . . . the man appeared to be about 36 to 40 years of age . . . HIS COMPLEXION AND HAIR WERE VERY DARK and he had a very heavy DARK MOUSTACHE. He had . . . a full round FACE which WAS NEITHER DARK NOR FAIR."

REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF HORACE CORY AND CO., LTD. :—
"The Directors HAVE PLEASURE in submitting the fourteenth report and Balance Sheet of the Company . . . from which it will be observed that the result of the year's trading shows a DECREASE as compared with last year."

"LANCASHIRE DAILY POST" report :—
"Some time afterwards Canon Sutton DIED at Dovenby Hall AND RODE HOME to Bridekirk on a clear moonlight night."

MR. ASTLEY SAMUEL, Auctioneer, Swansea, advertising in the *Cambria Daily Leader* :—
"For Sale, 200 Tea Chests, clean and dry, for conversion into business premises, long lease. Price £775."

MR. CRANFIELD, advertising in *Gas—Light, Distribution, Maintenance* :—
"CURSES in Gas Engineering and Gas Supply."

"SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO" report :—
"The 'bill o' fare' was, of course, ENTIRELY Scotch, including . . . Hielan' Stot, wi' YORKSHIRE puddin'!"

"ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS" :—
"The Quorn . . . at one time hunted EIGHT DAYS A WEEK."

"DAILY SKETCH" :—
"Mr. Geo. Lee Temple . . . was the first Englishman to FLY upside down ON English SOIL."

"OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE" report :—
"P.C. Brown, who had helped Carter in his struggle with the woman, said 'She got her teeth in my fingers, and I couldn't get them out for FIVE MONTHS.'"

Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published in this column. Should more than one competitor call attention to the same blunder, the amount will be forwarded to the sender of the first letter opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings sufficient must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and date of issue. Envelopes to be marked "Printer's Pie" in the left-hand top corner.

£1,500 To Be Won. Great New ONE WEEK Football Contest. See page 31.

OUR "BULLETS" JUDGING.

FURTHER UNSOLICITED TRIBUTES FROM VISITORS.

We have much pleasure in printing the subjoined letters, written to us as the result of visits to our offices, for the purpose of witnessing the judging of our "Bullets."

The first is from Mr. Robert L. C. Morrison, the Editor of the *Tenby Observer* :—

> On Saturday morning, January 24th, I called at your office for the purpose of seeing "Bullets" judged, and in view of the courteous reception accorded, the clear and intelligent explanations given me by the Competition Editor, and the frankness with which I was permitted to examine anything I desired in connection with the adjudication, I cannot refrain from taking this opportunity of expressing my unbounded satisfaction with the fairness and impartiality with which the responsible work is done. The minutest details receive the most conscientious treatment, and I am fully convinced that there is in the case of "Bullets" only one royal road to the prize lists—MERIT. The fact that I myself have since the inauguration of "Bullets" won between forty and fifty prizes is a convincing proof that neither names nor geographical location are in any way influencing factors in the awarding of prizes. I should also like to mention that I have invariably submitted *single* coupons, which fact at once demolishes the allegation so frequently heard in connection with these competitions—that only the sender in of a large batch stands any chance of attracting the attention of the judges. The ingenuity of the arrangement for handling the immense mass of coupons received in each competition also appealed strongly to me; as far as is humanly possible, everything is done to guard against any element of caprice or chance, and it is surely this fact which has been the main contributor to the enormous success and popularity which "Bullets" as a literary competition has achieved.

And this from the Tunbridge Wells Superintendent of the City Life Assurance Company :—

> I beg to thank you on behalf of my wife, brother and self for giving us the pleasure of watching the "Bullets" Judges at work on the afternoon of the 21st January, also for the lucid explanation you gave us, proving that it is a competition in which every competitor's efforts are fairly judged and the prizes are awarded for skill only. It is quite evident to me the coupons are not merely glanced through, because I noticed that up in front of one of the judges there were a few coupons which contained errors, and these, I was informed, were to be returned to the senders. I wish the "Bullets" Competition continued success, and hope the day is far distant when I shall read my JOHN BULL and find that some "Killjoy" (drat 'em!) has succeeded in preventing this excellent pastime.

The two letters quoted above are typical of very many other spontaneous testimonials which we have received from readers who have witnessed the judging. We regret we have no space to publish them, but shall be pleased to show them to anybody interested.

OUR £1,000 "BULLET" WINNER.

HOW HE GOT THE FORTUNE-BRINGING IDEA.

The following letter from Mr. Francis Cooley-Martin, of the R.E. Office, Milldam Barracks, Portsea, the winner of the £1,000 Prize offered in connection with our 67th "Bullets" Competition, will be read with interest :—

> It is with feelings of the utmost elation that I acknowledge the receipt of your cheque for £1,000—as the first prize in "Bullets" Competition No. 67.
>
> With regard to personalities, I have been employed on the civil staff of the Officer Commanding Royal Engineers, Portsea, for the last fourteen years; in fact, since the completion of my articles with one of Portsmouth's leading architects.
>
> Congratulations are pouring in upon me, and I can only reply, "Go in and do the same; the prizes ARE to be won, as I can most pleasurably testify."
>
> I may say the idea "salute cinema attendant," which was quite original, occurred to me on seeing the smart uniformed attendants at a picture house recently opened at Portsmouth.

The letter is interesting, also, as indicating how readers may obtain ideas for their "Bullets" by simply keeping their eyes open in the course of their daily rounds.

The cover illustration of the *Competitors' Journal* this week is devoted to the £1,000 "Bullet." It is a clever cartoon, by Hicks. Competitors should find this little paper helpful.

Run-down, Neurasthenia, "A Good brain tonic."

MR ERIC REES, F.R.M.S., F.S.M.C., F.I.O., etc. (Lond.), writes:—"Having derived much benefit from the use of Phosferine, both in my student days, and also since, whenever feeling at all run down, I gladly pay a tribute to the merit of your excellent preparation, notwithstanding that before I tried it I had a prejudice against proprietary medicine. Phosferine is a most excellent preparation for neurasthenia, and a good brain tonic." 22, High Street, Newport, Mon.

No other medicine has received such absolute proof of its extraordinary properties in restoring Shattered Constitutions, and in giving back to the prematurely aged New Life and Energy.

PHOSFERINE IS A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Nervous Debility	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Influenza	Mental Exhaustion	Backache
Indigestion	Loss of Appetite	Rheumatism
Sleeplessness	Lassitude	Headache
Exhaustion	Neuritis	Hysteria
Neuralgia	Faintness	Sciatica
Maternity Weakness	Brain-Fag	

and disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

PHOSFERINE

The Greatest Tonic and Digestive.

Supplied by Royal Commands to—

The Royal Family	H.M. the Queen of Spain
H.I.M. the Empress of Russia	H.M. the late King of Greece
H.M. the King of Spain	H.M. the Queen of Roumania, etc.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1 size.

ANOTHER GREAT ONE WEEK CONTEST. NO WAITING.

£1500 | **£500** IF ONE ERROR ONLY | **£150** FOR NEXT BEST FORECAST | **£50** FOR MAUVE COUPON

FOR ALL CORRECT COUPON

NEW ONE WEEK CONTEST.

We again offer the huge cash prizes displayed above for football skill. The matches selected are League Games to be played on Saturday, Feb. 14th. The contest closes Friday, Feb. 13th. Being a single week contest there is only one entrance form—see page 2 of our cover this week. Fill in your forecasts now. You can send as many coupons as you like. No goals required and there are no fees.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

Is to forecast the results of the League games to be played on Saturday, Feb 14th, given on the entrance form on page 2 of our cover this week. Before making your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking your forecasts as explained on the coupon.

£1,500 FOR AN ALL CORRECT COUPON.

The huge sum of **£1,500** will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded. Thus, **ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.**

Should it happen that no Entrance Form be received giving the whole of the correct results, **£500** will be paid to the competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the cash prize of **£150** to the sender of the most correct forecasts, whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of **£50** for the most correct forecasts sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £1,500, £500, or £150 but also an extra £50.

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

Our Football Competition department is now under the personal supervision of "McW." the well-known football writer, late of the "Morning Leader" and "Daily Chronicle."

The RULES and **COUPON** will be found on PAGE 2 of COVER.

£50 FOR A "MAUVE" COUPON.

We again offer a special and extra £50 Mauve Coupon prize. Being a one-week contest, there will be one mauve coupon only in "Mary Bull," on sale Friday next, February 6th. Competitors using the Mauve Coupon have the opportunity not only of winning the £1,500 or the £500 or £150, but also an additional £50 prize.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

Address: JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Mark envelope, "Football Contest No. 11." Closing date, Friday, February 13th.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 28, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. Over 5,000 Prizes are to be won this week. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered for the Best "Bullet" received, together with 3,072 other cash prizes.

Further List of "BULLETS" Prizewinners.

FOR NAMES OF FIRST THREE PRIZEWINNERS SEE P. 28.

20 PRIZES OF £2 10s.

Mr. A. GILL, Weaverham, Northwich, Cheshire:
LOOKING FOR GOLD—FROM "CRADLE" ONWARDS.
Mr. M. R. FISHWICK, Boys' Parochial School, Sidmouth, Devon:
UNKNOWN HEROES—HILARIOUS LIBRARY READERS.
Mr. S. [illegible], 19, Griffin Road, Plumstead, S.E.:
CHAMBER OF HORRORS—"EAT PUDDINGS" "FOURPENCE."
Mr. H. J. HISCOCK, Losman, Misterton, Crewkerne, Somerset:
LOOKING FOR GOLD—RARELY CONGREGATION'S FAILING.
Mr. G. J. WILLEY, Silvermere, Woodside Av., N. Finchley, N.:
LOSING HIS BALANCE—A FOOL'S STOP.
Mr. J. P. CONNELLY, 21, Duke Street, Dublin, Ireland:
ROOM FOR NEVER—NON-COMBATANT'S FAVOURITE EXCLAMATION.
Mr. E. R. ALLEN, 15, St. Alban's Road, Bootle, Lancs.
CHAMBER OF HORRORS—SUBURBANITE'S PARLOUR OTTEN.
Mr. H. W. CLARK, 112, Beverstone Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey:
SEVEN TROUBLE—TRAMP—NOTHING ELSE.
Mr. T. HUGHES, Chapel End, Atherstone, Warwick:
NOTHING TO PAY—THEREFORE REHEARSALS PROLONGED.
Mrs. MINNIE MOFFITT, 71, Dalmeny Street, Leith:
CORRECT PRACTICES—THRIVING BY CONNIVING.
Mrs. A. L. BUTTRESS, 86, Percy Street, Oxford:
LOSING HIS BALANCE—"WAVED" TOO EASILY.
Mr. C. G. WILKINDEN, 62B, St. John's Street, Folkestone, Kent:
GIVING TIPS—TAX ON SNACKS.
Mr. H. J. OSBORN, Stationmaster, Heckington, Derbyshire:
HONOURS EASY—HORSE DRAWS ARTIST.
Mr. JIMMY DIXON, 10, Arundel Square, Barnsbury, N.:
LIFTING QUEER—RISING IN "INTERIOR."
Mr. G. MOONEY, 124, Great Brunswick Street, Dublin:
NEGLECTING THE NAVY—A "NEAR" THING.
Mr. J. H. ARNOT, 5, Windsor Terrace, Glasgow, N.W.:
CABINET SPLIT—CHURCHILL "TOO LIBERAL."
Mr. L. BREEZE, Junr., care of Messrs. F. Curwen and Sons, Ltd., Printers, Plaistow, E.:
PLEASE TAKE ONE—SULTAN NEVER SAYS.
Mr. H. HOLMES, c/o Brown, 30, Lady Lawson St., Edinburgh:
PASSION FLEETS—POETRY DIDN'T PAY.

£2 10s. divided between :—

Mr. WILL PEACH, 927, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield—
Example :—UNKNOWN HEROES.
Bullet :—EVERYBODY'S COALS RECALL; and
Mrs. D. COOPER, 46, Aylesbury Road, Buckland, Portsmouth :—
Example :—UNKNOWN HEROES.
Bullet :—EVERY SCUTTLEFUL REPRESENTS.

£2 10s. divided between :—

Miss E. DAVIES, Mainstone House, Llandrindod Wells, Radnor North Wales:
Example :—PLEADING POVERTY.
Bullet :—"ACCOUNTS" USUALLY "OVERDRAWN" and
Mr. J. A. HACKETT, Worcestershire Hotel, Droitwich:
Example :—PLEADING POVERTY.
Bullet :—"ACCOUNTS" FREQUENTLY "OVERDRAWN."

Reduced Facsimile of the

£1,000 "BULLETS" CHEQUE

Paid to Last Week's FIRST PRIZEWINNER.

The original of the above Cheque will be on view at the premises of Mr. Sykes, 137, High Street, Portsmouth, until February 7th and hence until February 11th at those of Mr. Garrett, Newsagent Russell Street, Southsea, Portsmouth.

Selection from 50 Prizewinners of £1 Each.

Allen, A. G., 16, Clare-st., Chesterton, Cambridge.
Ayre, F. G., 28, Mt. Pleasant-rd., Lewisham, S.E.
Baker, E., 16, Norfolk-rd., Littlehampton, Sussex.
Beams, A. L., 23, Chester-rd., Kidderminster.
Box, D., 1, South James-st., Murton, Co. Durham.
Brady, K., Oatlands, Paignton, Devon.
Brand, C., Sea View Villas, West Mersea, Essex.
Carter, Maud, Scotland Farm, Dry Drayton, nr. Cambridge.
Childerstone, C., c.o. The Follies, The Coliseum, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Clarke, L., 84, St. George's-sq., Portsea, Portsmouth.
Cockell, A. T., Eden Vale, Westbury, Wilts.
Coleman, Mrs. D., 13, St. Mary's-sq., Paddington Grn., W.
Corfield, F., 8, Lonsboro'-rd., Seacombe, Cheshire.
Crossley, Driver, R.C.C., 262, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, S.W.
Davies, A., 126, Woodville-rd., Cardiff.
Graham, A., 49, Percy-pl., Northumberland-rd., Dublin.
Greaves, A. L., 1, Pole-lane, Failsworth, Manchester.
Harris, Mrs., 11, Belshaw-st., Homerton, N.E.
Harrison, Mrs. J. H., 113, Bonchurch-rd., Brighton.
Harrop, A. P., Parkview, Kerse-rd., Falkirk, N.B.
Heywood, C., 3, Thalia-st., Leeds.
Howson, F. J., London Hospital, E.
Jones, J., 4, Sefton-ter., Deganwy.

"JOHN BULL" £50,000 DERBY SWEEP.—Will readers please bear in mind that we cannot either supply or reply to applications for books of tickets for this sweepstake; nor can we act as agents for receiving and forwarding money for tickets. All communications *must* be addressed direct to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland

Complete List of all "Bullets" Prizewinners can be seen at these offices.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

Each Financial and Insurance Inquiry must be accompanied by Postal Order for One Shilling, and must be addressed to the City Editor, 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

GENERAL.

H. M. (Hastings).—Thanks for interesting photo showing your brother sitting under his hut, in Rhodesia, with *John and Mary* on his lap. What a fine chap he looks—to say nothing of his dog!

"DULWICH READER."—It is certainly news to us that we have taken up our residence "in Court Lane, Dulwich Park." We have written to the Editor of the *Dulwich, Peckham and Camberwell Post*, correcting the statement, and explaining that *Court* Lane is the last place in the world we should choose to live in. It sounds like the long lane that has no turning.

W. S. (Peterborough).—We note from the handbill you send us that L. G. Maxse, the superlative mud-thrower of British politics, has appeared at Peterborough in support of the Hon. Henry Lygon, the prospective Unionist candidate. Mr. Lygon seems anxious to be known by the company he keeps.

R. S. R. (Rock Ferry).—The Rev. John Alban, Curate of St. Peter's, Rock Ferry, has not impressed himself on our memory, but we do not resent his preaching about us at all. Making a sermon of us is a form of exercise in which many clergy have indulged themselves of late, but this is not to say that we either contribute to the collection or pay for the advertisement.

S. H. G. (Leeds).—While Ensign Wright, "connected with the Salvation Army's Emigration Department," was giving you in Leeds "a detailed account of the opportunities in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand for suitable settlers," the Salvation Army in Canada were begging old clothes and waste-paper by house-to-house appeal in aid of the workless, hungry and distressed.

A. L. C. (St. Petersburg).—Your screed on "The Ugliness of the Nude" is hereby acknowledged. Queer that a man last week should send us a poem on "The Beauty of the Rude." It was also cast into the fire and there consumed utterly.

"EX-PATIENT" (Pendleton).—You say you would like to criticise our article of December 13th, entitled "A Merry Jest," which referred to patients having been turned out of a sanatorium for playing farthing nap. You inform us it is a rule that at certain times of the day patients must rest, and playing cards keeps them excited at such times and hinders cure. You think it is only right that patients who can't obey the rules should make way for those who can. But surely to turn them out without warning for such an offence is unreasonably drastic?

"BILLY F." (King's Lynn).—You inform us that Joe Davis (the London-Provincial Variety Agency) gave you a cheque for £4, which was subsequently returned marked "Refer to Drawer." Afterwards you got £2 from him, but he now owes you a fiver. Accept our congratulations that he doesn't owe you a tenner.

C. W. H. (Petersfield).—"I am enclosing a bill and two copies of our parochial magazine, in which you will see paragraphs relating to sale of all kinds of fancy articles suitable for presents—proceeds to the Rectory Fund. This is what we poor tradesmen have to put up with just when——" Exactly; but think of the pressing claims of the Rectory!

J. B. (Ipswich).—What do you take us for—babes and sucklings? When you have a real smart problem send it along by all means, but don't try to teach JOHN BULL how to suck eggs.

J. O. S. (Bishop's Stortford) sent on October 30th last 11s. to Messrs. R. Southall and Co., of 88, Kirkstall Road, Leeds, for a pair of boots. Receipt of the money was acknowledged, but the boots did not turn up until the middle of December, and then only after they had been written for three times, and the Chief Constable of Leeds had been communicated with. A firm whose memory requires to be jogged by the police does not inspire us with confidence. "J. O. S." apparently adopted the sole means of bringing them to heel.

F. R. (Chesterfield).—We note that you, too, have had an unsatisfactory deal with Southall's. After sending them, on December 22nd, 13s. for a pair of made-to-measure boots, on January 7th you wrote asking them to expedite delivery, as if not received within a week you would be compelled to purchase locally. A soft answer came, attributing the delay to the holidays, and stating that the order was then in hand, and would be forwarded within the next four days. It was, however, necessary to give them another reminder, which elicited a letter, dated January 15th, stating that they were sending you a superior pair, sized eight, and trusted that they would fit—a misplaced confidence, as they were much too large, and consequently had to be returned. They have, up to the time of your writing us, done nothing further, ignoring your threat of a County Court summons for the return of the money or fulfilment of the order.

MISS S. (Bournemouth).—No, you are not quite right in saying the captain of the Poole Fire Brigade took from four o'clock in the morning to mid-day to reach the fire at Branksome Park. He says he did not personally receive a call at all, as he is not on the telephone. What use a captain of a fire brigade is when he is not on the 'phone is another question.

J. H. H. (Weston-super-Mare).—We will keep an eye on things your way, but we must have definite cases with the proofs. *Ex parte* statements are of no use at all.

"TROMBONE" (Newton).—"1—Can the servers at the Post Office counter refuse to supply postal orders on certain days of the year?" Yes, providing they haven't any. "2—Can they refuse to cash postal orders on certain days of the year?" Yes, if they have no cash. "3—Is it legal to ask for payment of 3d. for a letter or postcard?" Yes, if you legally owe it.

J. M. (Dublin).—Evidently the Strand auctioneers are on the old-old game, and you were hoodwinked. And yet you tell us you are "an old reader of JOHN BULL." All we can say is that we're very much surprised to hear it.

CAPT. G. C. (Aberdeen).—We agree with you that it would have been more to the point if the committee of the "Strath Almond Relief Fund" had started the captain's widow in a little business, instead of doling out her £150 at 7s. a week for self and family, but it is seemingly next to impossible to get committees of philanthropic funds to distribute them in this way. The dole is always the method selected in the case of poor people.

W. J. S. (Stoke-on-Trent).—It is a pity Mr. Probert did not turn up at the inquest to corroborate the statement of a witness that the policeman prevented him from undressing and going into the water to save your boy "because he hadn't any bathing drawers." If the allegation is true, he *must* be a pig-headed policeman.

J. B. (Wangford).—The contributor of "Hodge at Harvest Thanksgiving" shall be informed of your allegation that the agricultural labourer of to-day "gets from £7 15s. to £8 for the harvest or for the month"; also that ordinary labourers, horsemen, and cowmen are far better off than the townsman earning £1 with rent of 7s. to 10s. a week to pay.

L. S. (Glasgow).—If the Boilermakers' Union have made a levy of 1s. per member we don't see how you can resist it, unless you are prepared to resist the peaceful (?) persuasion of your fellow trade unionists. As the money is required for a purpose with which you disagree, you have our sympathy.

H. P. D. (Birmingham).—We cannot deal with the charges you bring against the management of a certain Birmingham theatre without strong corroboration from disinterested sources.

"NETTLED" (Market Drayton).—Tell your old lady friend that "Parker and Son, London," tea merchants, who obtain business by promising a £5 bonus to their customers, are a fraud, that their £5 bonus is a delusion, and their system of trading a snare.

F. G. (Birmingham) tells us he works for some local rubber mills and that recently his wages for a 51½ hours' week amounted to 14s. 8d. With two children and an invalid wife to support, it doesn't leave much for luxuries, we imagine. It would be better if he were paid in rubber. He might then be able to make both ends meet.

H. G. S. (London, S.W.).—We disapprove of the payment of large fees in advance, whether to the Professional Service Bureau, of 453, Strand, W.C., or any other apartments agency.

Praise and Nothing but Praise for the "John Bull" Pen. Coupon on page iii. of cover.

MRS. B. (Ampthill).—We think you turned the tables on the bogus auction sharks at Scarborough very neatly. We have warned our readers a thousand times against such people, and exposed their tricks, so cannot yet awhile spare the space for a further article on the subject.

G. F. (Thetford).—We consider 20 miles an hour too fast a rate to drive a car down a lane near Marlow, no matter how expert the driver. Along straight roads in open country go as fast as you please. We therefore endorse the endorsement of your licence.

E. M. S. (Portsmouth).—We can tell you nothing about "Inventions," 3A, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, but we are sorry to hear you have invented an automatic punkah. What about the poor punkah wallahs? They will be like that other black man, Othello.

"AN INDIAN" (Egypt).—We will try to respect your wishes and refrain from using the term "native," except in connection with the succulent bivalve. We said we will "try," for, after all, there is nothing in the least disrespectful in the term as applied to the Indians, or any other race. It merely indicates the people indigenous to the country, no matter which.

W. H. S. (Chester).—Why not send the man a deferred money order? Then, if you find his offer is not genuine, you can stop payment. We cannot ourselves inquire into purely personal matters of this kind.

"CATARRHINE" (Matlock) asks us to tell him "the addresses of West African firms wanting young men about 21 years of age." How on earth should we know which W. African firms are in want of young men? We are not an employment agency.

MRS. D. (Henley-on-Thames) has been inundated with copies of the "Ancient Prayer" since winning a £50 prize in a JOHN BULL competition. This is one of the penalties of fame which thousands would willingly endure.

A. B. (Glasgow) has been inspired by our "Letter Bag" to drop into poetry, as follows:—

My dear old "John," your letter bag
Contains some questions funny—
To answer them you never lag—
Your main advice is—get the "Swag,"
Before you part with money.

I always laugh, week after week,
(It makes my chest expand),
"Have you heard of such a Clique?"
"Hadn't Swank and Co. an awful cheek?"
"And who is Captain Rand?"

We can stand a good deal, but we really are getting fed up with "Captain" Rand. So is our wastepaper basket.

W. P. S. (Moy Valley, R.S.O.).—T. Todd-Potts, D.Litt. (American Degree), of 12, Upper Cliff Road, Gorleston, is a begging-letter writer who has done time for pledging goods ordered on approval. All the same, his song may be worth 2s. to anyone who likes it.

F. G. (Camberwell, S.E.).—We know nothing about the quack remedy called Vita-ore and sold by the Theo-Noel Co., Ltd., of 29, Ludgate Hill, E.C. Why not address your inquiry to the Editor of the *Lancet*?

J. F. F. (Seven Kings).—We do not doubt the extent and charitable character of Mrs. W. P. Griggs's (of Ilford) activities, but think it rather ridiculous at this stage to talk about maintaining two Ulster children during the disturbance that is expected to follow Home Rule. Consequently we adhere to every word we said in the "Open Letter" we recently addressed to that doubtless admirable lady.

A. T. (Stoke Newington, N.).—Your friend wins. There are 3,566,480 letters in the Bible, and 3,686,000 acres in the county of Yorkshire. You are at liberty to count them for yourself, if you doubt our figures.

"INDIGNANT" (Ontario) complains of the way women emigrants were hustled to their cabins between 9 and 10 p.m. by a uniformed inspector on board the R.M.S. *Victorian*, when crossing recently to the Dominion. They were lucky if they had nothing worse to complain about.

"YOUNGSTER" (Gillingham).—We consider Pitman's system of shorthand the best. It has recently been made shorter than ever.

"POSTMISTRESS" (Eccles New Road, Salford) asks us to point out that our recent criticism of the management of a telegraph office in Eccles New Road does not apply to the office over which she presides, but to that known as "Weaste," in the same road. We are sorry if she has been caused annoyance, but she has the satisfaction of knowing that she is not guilty.

V. H. M. (Canada).—Thanks for the address of Dick's Clothing Store, Hastings Street, Vancouver, which a recent correspondent was inquiring for. We seem to be giving Mr. Dick a pretty good gratis advert.

F. W. C. (Co. Monaghan).—The first post-card acknowledges the order but is not a receipt for the money. We have often cautioned our readers against M. and G. Clyde, of 73, Dunlop Street, Glasgow, but shall judge their quality from what you write us next.

MRS. C. C. (Wandsworth).—The National Clothing Club, of 1, Blamul Street, Burnley, appear to work the same dodge as the British Clothing Club, of Manchester. Don't waste any more money on them, for you are unlikely to get your deposit returned.

"DISGUSTED" (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—So are we.

"A CONSTANT READER" (Tougham).—We are afraid it is rather too late in the day to go into your charges concerning the discipline on board H.M.S. *Natal* last Christmas. We do not deal in ancient history when so many current matters clamour for our attention.

A. H. T. (Darlington) tells us as a "fact" that, asking a newsagent the other week for a copy of the *British Empire*, without a moment's hesitation he was handed a copy of JOHN BULL. We should have expected nothing less of an intelligent newsagent.

C. W. (Stratford, E.).—We have already commented upon the lottery run by the Ovada Bazaar and Fête, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

MRS. B. (Welling) writes:—

"Dear JOHN BULL thanks for Pen,
I've not had one like it since I don't know when.
So I hope all your readers will take advantage at once,
To own such a pen, one could *not* write like a Dunce."

We *don't* think!

"PRO PATRIA" (Nottingham) says: "As a regular Aux postman for several years it has been my experience to find more intelligence in the temps than in the permanents." "*Pro Patria*" is nat. biased in his opin.

W. R. (Plymouth).—What a wooden-headed policy!

F. R. M. (Clapham, S.W.) writes: "They do not hang people on a Monday, as one clear day must intervene for postal reasons." There may be some truth in this, for we cannot call to mind one of our friends who was hanged on a Monday.

J. J. (Montreal) asks us to point out that agreements for employment made in England with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are not binding in Canada, and that waiters and others, engaged perhaps for twelve months, are sometimes summarily dismissed, and have no redress.

"SHEFFIELD BLADE" (Sheffield) asks if his money will be safe in the hands of W. W. Bell and Co., Emigration Experts, 40, Surrey Street, Strand, W.C., or J. E. Ridgeway, Ltd., 125, Strand, W.C., Colonial Emigration Agents? Does "Sheffield" mean safe from his own point of view, or from that of Messrs. Bell and Ridgeway? Much depends upon this.

A. L. (Tottenham).—Who has been pulling your leg?

C. F. (Glasgow).—We are not plumbers and know nothing about "soldering bolts," so cannot say whether you were taken in or not by the tool merchant you mention. Perhaps you should not have put the "bolt" in the fire.

F. G. (London, W.C.).—Congratulations on getting your deposit back from the British Clothing Club, of Manchester. Barring the waste of postage stamps, you came off very well.

G. M. H. (Romford).—All paying guest agencies which demand substantial fees in advance, and talk glibly about placing "delicate boys" and "German youths" with their deluded clients should be shunned. Read our article on this subject in a recent issue.

"MUM" (London).—You are quite right as to the identity of the gentleman in question—but "birds of a feather" must stick together!

M. L. (Monkseaton).—Mr. Bottomley is a "lay lawyer"—*i.e.*, although he knows as much about law as most barristers and solicitors, and considerably more than some, he has never been either admitted to the Rolls, or called to the Bar.

J. K. (Edinburgh).—"Beyond everything" you are a Home Ruler. So are we; within limits. Ask Mary.

"SCRUTATOR."—So you are "sick of our parsons." So are we. Shake.

W. A. (Stoke Newington).—And *you* think that "the fires of Smithfield should be relighted" for our benefit! Well, there is a lot of frozen meat down there, we believe. But, seriously, cannot you see that we are really doing the Church a good turn? It was *we*, you know, who got rid of Redgrave, Smyth Pigott and others. So won't *you* "shake," too?

W. H. (London).—Our Bunch of Keys will undoubtedly shortly open the door of Aladdin's Cave—although the other day he Cooden quite do it—whilst we hope Sherwood will again rise to the occasion.

R. W. (Keighley).—Your wife was wise in having nothing to do with the London Jewellery Syndicate, of Barbican Court, E.C. She, of course, can guess how they obtained her address and actual signature.

Over 5,000 Cash and Other "Bulletin" Prizes are to be Won Weekly. Page 28.

LETTER BAG.—Continued.

LEGAL.

R. S. (Oxon).—In giving you the sack when you were on the sick list, your employers acted within their legal rights, but without kindly consideration.

"AJAX" (Deptford).—As the father died without making a will, all the children are entitled to an equal share of the personal property—that is, money, furniture, etc. If the money paid into the bank in the name of the daughter was an absolute gift she can keep it; but if it was only held by her as trustee for her father, she must divide it with the other children.

V. H. (Constantine).—The cost of a Marriage Licence is about £2 14s. 6d. Notice must be given by one of the parties to the Superintendent Registrar of the district in which he or she has resided for at least fifteen days, and he will issue his licence at the expiration of one day. The marriage may then immediately take place, or it may be celebrated at any time within three months. As the gentleman is a foreigner, you should communicate with the Consul for the country to which he belongs, in order to make certain that all the necessary formalities over there are complied with.

"JOHN BULL" (Gloucester).—Unless your daughter was dismissed for serious misconduct, she can sue in the County Court for a month's wages in lieu of notice. But in view of the fact that her wages were paid weekly, we fear that she will have some difficulty in convincing the Court that the agreement was for a month's notice.

G. F. (Beckenham).—Neither branch of the legal profession is open to the fair sex yet. We have no doubt that both will be eventually, but not for some years. If you are so intent on a professional career, why not qualify for a doctor and "go on the panel"?

K. Y. Z. (Plymouth).—In order to take proceedings for divorce *in forma pauperis*, you would have first to find a solicitor who would act for you without payment, and he would have to obtain a certificate from a barrister stating that you have good grounds for action. Then, when the case is ready for hearing, you would have the expense of bringing your witnesses to London. All this would cost at least £20. The law may be amended shortly so that poor persons will be able to obtain relief.

"RATEPAYER" (Rhondda).—Rates are payable in advance. You had better remit at once in order to save expense.

J. H. (Glasgow).—The best thing you can do is to pay up, and see that your wife does not pledge your credit with tradesmen in the future. Having acknowledged the debt by making payments on account, you have made yourself legally liable.

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

LONDON SHOE COMPANY.—H. N. (Eaton Square).—The Company has a fair business, but was overweighted with capital, and the proposal to write off £38,000 affords the best prospect of placing the business on a sound basis.

BULLFINCH PROPRIETARY.—W. A. (Farnborough).—There had been no further news about the theft of 3,000 ozs. of gold. The fall in the shares is mainly owing to the fact that the ground is very patchy, and it is doubtful how long the present rate of profit can be maintained. No doubt many people attempted to get out on the declaration of the dividend. As there has been a further fall since, perhaps you might hang on for a bit in hope of a recovery, but it would be well to get out on a substantial rise.

"JOHN BULL" BANK.—T. J. R. (Bala).—We understand that three months notice is required for withdrawal of deposits, but we are sure that the Bank would meet you in any reasonable way. In these days of cheap money and consequent small yields on capital invested a Bank Deposit at a fixed rate of 5 per cent. is an attractive proposition.—J. C. (Durham).—You should forward the amount in question to the "John Bull" Bank, 27/30, Old Jewry, London, E.C., stating that you wish to place the money on deposit at five per cent.

CONSOLS.—NEW READER.—We are afraid there is not much chance of a substantial rise in Consols until the existing and prospective mass of gilt-edged stocks is better digested. Railway stocks, like Great Northern Deferred, London and South Western Deferred and Brighton Deferred would probably suit your purpose best.

NILE VALLEY.—W. A. (Newport, Mon.).—Round about 1s. 6d. the shares might be regarded as a cheap gamble, but the mine so far has been most disappointing, and you are more likely to lose than gain on the deal.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.—E. H. (Harrogate).—We have marked your list in the order we think best. The others are speculative for one reason or another.

EQUITABLE HOUSE PROPERTY COMPANY.—Mrs. E. L. (Bristol).—We do not consider the House Property Certificates of this concern a desirable investment. If a Surrender Value is payable, accept it and insure with one of the established Life Assurance Companies.

PREMIUM BONDS.—H. C. (Peckham).—We should prefer to recommend you to transact the business through Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., of 10, rue du 4 Septembre, La Bourse, Paris.—B. J. (Glamorgan).—We suggest you should write to Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., and give them full particulars.—AYE LEARNING.—You cannot do better than communicate with Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co.—R. J. G. (Portsmouth).—We are unable to express an opinion as to the merits of the Bonds in question, but Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., are a reliable firm.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—E. W. P. (Merton Park).—The correspondence you enclose is very interesting. Your contention appears to be that the property is well worth £500. The Association reply that the Loan Committee only recommend an advance of £400 to £435, less £15 for road charges in accordance with their valuer's report. The Association would not, of course, admit an independent valuation. You must, therefore, accept or reject their offer. The subscriptions paid before borrowing are not taken into account in determining the amount that can be lent. We do not like the system. It is dear and inequitable from the borrower's standpoint, and in surrendering the Bond Certificate a large proportion of the moneys paid are confiscated, going to swell the profits of the undertaking to the detriment and loss of the certificate holder.

ABSTAINERS AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—Sog.—Carefully managed and sound. We see no objection to your applying for the £500 Endowment Policy you mention.

MUTUAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT CO.—J. G. (Alexandria, N.B.).—It has been held that the carrying on of Endowment Certificate business in the case of Companies which have not complied with the Life Assurance Act, 1909, by lodging in Court £20,000, is *ultra vires*, and that these Certificates are void as Contracts. You should therefore apply for the return of all premiums paid, with interest, and if the application is not promptly met, instruct a solicitor to act for you.

SPORTING.

Sporting inquiries must be addressed to the Sporting Editor, 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

WILLIAM BARNES (Lucerne).—W. S. (Dartford).—We have frequently warned our readers against having anything to do with this individual, who is simply an alias for the notorious de Paauw. We have already called the attention of the Lucerne police to the man and his methods.

WILLIAM STIRLING (Glasgow).—D. B. (Dundee).—We note your friend's experience, and that this man has had to meet his liabilities by instalments. We think you are very wise to confine your business to reputable firms, such as J. Hamilton and Co., of Binningen, and Alfred Maurice, of Birsfelden.

LINCOLN AND NATIONAL "DOUBLE."—J. P. D. (Glasgow).—All the firms you mention are trustworthy.

"JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEP.—PET.—We will pass your suggestion on to Messrs. Smallman and Terry.

PATRICK O'BRIEN (Lucerne).—COVERTCOAT.—You can obtain full particulars of Mr. O'Brien's Grand National Sweep, in which the prize fund is £10,000, on application to Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne. You must not forget, however, that the postage is 2½d. We cannot in any circumstances forward money for tickets.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.—T. J. R. (Bala).—The best form of remittance is by British postal order. Cheques are not usually accepted unless received in ample time to be cleared.

BOUVERET SPORTS "CLUB".—E. C. (Colchester), AND J. E. M. (Halifax).—We think that the wording of this "Club" circular is very misleading, there being, in fact, no *guaranteed* prize money at all. Everything depends upon what comes in. We have no reason, however, to doubt the *bona fides* of the distribution.

TURF POOL SYNDICATE (Geneva).—A. D. (Manchester).—We have no doubt that the omission to stamp the letter was a clerical oversight, and, if you write to the firm at Geneva, they will doubtless reimburse you.

INTERNATIONAL TURF DRAW SYNDICATE (Milan).—F. G. J. (India).—We advise you to have nothing to do with these people's Lincolnshire Handicap Sweepstake. Their literature, tickets, etc., are copies in every detail of those issued by the Turf Pool Syndicate, of Geneva, whose Draw for the Lincolnshire Handicap our Editor has arranged to attend.—SWEEP.—We have made inquiries and are informed by the Turf Pool Syndicate that they know nothing of the International Turf Draw Syndicate except the former have copied their printing and adopted the phraseology used in their circulars.

Turn to page 28 for "Bullets"—Then to page 31 for Football Contest.

CITY NOTES.

(*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see Letter Bag pages.*)

The Stock Markets.

There is a boom in gilt-edged stocks—that is obvious, and most other sections have shone more or less brilliantly in the reflected glory. But how long will it last?—that is the question. Frankly, it is impossible to say, because there are so many conflicting influences to be taken into account. Most observers believe that the pace has been too hot and that a reaction may come at any moment, especially if the outpouring of new issues continues at the present rate. On the other hand there certainly seems to be much more money seeking permanent investment than was generally believed, and once a strong buying movement starts it seems to gather impetus at every step. Last week it was helped by the lowering of the Bank rate from 4 to 3 per cent., making a total reduction of 2 per cent. in three weeks. The lowering of the rate by 1 per cent. at a time is in itself most unusual, indeed we have to go away back to 1889—a quarter of a century—to find a parallel to the present situation. Anyhow, with the Bank rate at 3 per cent. a great deal of money which has been lying on deposit will be forced into the Stock Markets to obtain a better yield, and as nearly always happens in such circumstances the bulk of it goes first of all into Trustee, or, at any rate, very high-class, securities. But the prudent investor will not entirely overlook the claims of good Railway Ordinary and Deferred stocks which yield 5 per cent. and upwards and are quite safe. Well secured Industrial Debentures and Preference shares will not be indefinitely neglected, but with the exception of the Oil section there is little chance of any great improvement in speculative markets just at present, and Kaffirs ought to be sold out on every favourable opportunity.

Home Railway Dividends.

The announcements so far made must be regarded on the whole as very satisfactory. No case of a reduction as compared with last year, and in most instances there has been an advance. Great Eastern pays ½ per cent. more for the last six months, but the dividend for the whole year is the same as for 1912. Great Northern Deferred gets 3 per cent. against 2¾ per cent. for the year, and much larger sums are set aside for reserve, etc.; in fact 3¼ per cent. could easily have been paid on the stock. At the present price it yields nearly 5½ per cent. and looks decidedly cheap. Chatham Seconds get 30s. against 10s., and South Eastern Deferred 2 per cent. against 1¾ per cent., but both these are high enough except from a speculative point of view. The results of some of the bigger lines are awaited with exceptional interest and the forthcoming reports, covering for the first time a whole year's operations, will be scanned with unusual keenness.

Canada versus Great Britain.

Two pictures: No. 1, *The Union Life Assurance Company (of Canada)*, in July, 1910, made an issue of shares in Great Britain. Three years later, it came to grief. In October last, the Canadian Government caused an inquiry into its failure to be instituted and examined on oath the leading spirits connected with the issue. The examination closed just before Christmas, and recently the chief promoter and three of the Canadian directors, including Mr. Harry Symons, K.C., were indicted before the Grand Jury at Toronto and a True Bill being returned, warrants for their arrest were issued. The chief promoter having left the country, the Provincial Attorney-General has intimated that unless he returns of his own accord, measures will be taken for his extradition. Mr. Harry Symons, K.C., one of the leaders of the Canadian Bar, has been arrested and released on £3,000 bail, as has another director, and a watch is being kept over a third who is in a sanatorium. No. 2. *The Law Guarantee Trust and Accident Society Limited*, a gigantic corporation, came to utter grief in 1909. That its failure was brought about by circumstances within the control of its directors, was admitted on all hands after we had threshed out the whole matter in the unsuccessful action for libel which its "Surveyor," Mr. F. J. Ronald, brought against us. But despite agitations, petitions and appeals, the authorities have refused to hold an inquiry into the failure. The whole thing was hushed up and buried, and hundreds of shareholders have been ruined.

Government Life Assurance.

The Industrial Assurance world has received the recent announcement of the Postmaster-General with equanimity. At any rate, there is no perceptible flutter in the Directorial dovecotes as yet. The trend of events, however, with regard to the future of Industrial assurance is not without disquieting features. The enormous cost of conducting the "Debit" system, the absence of Surrender Value payments and the scandalous forfeiture of premiums under lapsed policies, are hastening the time when drastic reformation will be demanded and enforced. The new phase of Post Office Life Assurance is designed to assist those of small means, and sums ranging from £10 to £50 can be arranged to be paid at death. A good feature is that every contract which has been in force for two years and on which eight quarters' premiums have been duly paid will acquire a Surrender Value or the alternative of a Paid Up Assurance of an amount equivalent to the Surrender Value. "State Insurance" on an enlarged scale is merely a question of time and organisation.

Exuberant Ver-bos-ity.

I. H. Bos and Co., the Rotterdam firm, run by Dirk Dronkers, formerly Gerson, Hamson and Co., are (or is) now publishing a fly-sheet, called "The London Exchange." It opens with "A Review of the Week," which foreshadows great activity in the present year in all departments, and more particularly in Canadian Pacifics and Steel Trusts, Dronkers being firmly of opinion that the stocks will rise considerably is asking each of the people to whom he sends his circular to buy a thousand dollars' worth of either or both *from him*—at a price Dronkers is to fix. The only condition he makes is that they shall deposit £4 in the case of the former and £2 in the case of the latter. Dronkers appears to have dropped his mythical deals in cotton futures, against which we have already warned readers, and we repeat our warnings in respect to his stock operations, the nature of which he skilfully disguises.

Pure Jamaica.

We note that the Official Receiver is calling upon creditors of this unfortunate concern to file their claims with a view to their receiving a dividend. This suggests that the appeal in the action of the Company *versus* W. W. Rutherford and others, which was postponed on November 28th last until the first sittings of this term, has been settled. When the matter of the postponement was mentioned in the Court of Appeal, counsel for the Official Receiver stated that several of the defendants had proposed terms of settlement which had been practically agreed. Nothing has been heard of the appeal since then. The observations of the Official Receiver on the conduct of certain of the directors of the Company, made at the time of its failure, and the evidence given by Mr. W. W. Rutherford, M.P. at the public inquiry which followed, certainly demand that every publicity should be given to the terms, if any, upon which the matter has been finally disposed of—if it has been disposed of. We gave the salient parts of the history of this enterprise in our issue of November 2nd, 1912. The sequel should be of interest to many people in addition to the creditors and shareholders of the Company, and to the constituents and clients of Mr. W. W. Rutherford, M.P.

Rhodesian Land Ownership.

The Government have informed the Chartered (British South Africa) Company that they have decided to refer the question of the ownership of the unalienated land in Rhodesia to the Privy Council. We think this is the best course to adopt, although the announcement comes at an awkward time for bulls of Chartered. For years past there has been a rather virulent controversy between the settlers and the Company as to the ownership of the lands, and although "Dr. Jim" has valiantly maintained the company's claim during his visit to Rhodesia, the unofficial residents are just as unconvinced as ever. It is admitted that the original concession on which the Charter was granted does not give a title to the land, but there is a concession to E. Lippert (afterwards secured by the company) about which diverse opinions exist, and as a last resort the company claims the land by conquest. It is a most complicated question, and can only be properly settled by a judicial authority.

Another No-Waiting Football Contest—ONE WEEK Only. Prizes £1,500, £500, £150, & £50.

Racing Notes.

At Warwick to-day (Wednesday) the most likely winners are Londerry in the County Hurdle; Sensitive Symons in the Budbrooke Maiden Hurdle; and Hesperus Magnus in the Hunters' Steeplechase. To-morrow (Thursday), Ballykisteen should take the Watergall Hurdle Handicap; Flying Loris the Barford Steeplechase; Lamentable the Leamington Steeplechase, and Rapt the Long Distance Hurdle.

At Sandown Park, both on Friday and Saturday, our Editor has several horses entered, and those seen out will all be worth support. Apart from these Ante looks a good thing for the Farnham Steeplechase on Friday, and on the same day Rathnally should win the Stanley Cup. On Saturday, Warbine in the Metropolitan Hurdle must represent the best thing of the week.

Although winning two races at Plumpton, the Editor was very unlucky with Bunch o' Keys in falling against the "potted" goods, Topsy's Baby, a six-year-old which was thrown into the race and to which Bunch o' Keys was asked to concede no less than two stone. It is, however, hoped to make amends in either the Sandown Grand Prize or the Cardinals Handicap, whilst any of his other horses which run should be followed.

"JOHN BULL" SWEEPS.

The following handsome paragraph, which appeared in last week's *People*, will be read with interest by our readers:—

Football Sweepstakes.

With reference to the remarks which appeared in this column on December 21st, 1913, under the above heading, we desire to make it clear that we were casting no reflection upon any sweepstake under the supervision of Mr. Bottomley or John Bull. We were dealing generally with the whole subject of football sweepstakes, and although our personal advice to our readers is to leave all sweepstakes alone, we do not intend to suggest that in the case of this particular one, either any of the prizes, or the subscriptions to charities, were not duly paid. We have been furnished with a list of the charities which benefited and of all the prize winners, and Mr. Bottomley personally assures us that the whole of the money was duly paid.

Football Fancies.

By "McW."

"There were not any surprises," said a friend to me, on Saturday night, as we discussed the Cup Ties.

Along came another friend. "There was one big surprise to-day."

"Big surprise? What was that?"

"The fact that there were not any surprises."

Yet, my friends, there was one outcome of Saturday's games which may have the effect of robbing some very deserving competitor of his £5 a Week for Life. Of all the matches given on our coupon only one resulted in a draw. The smallest number, hereto.ore, was three, but let us hope that there was some competitor discerning enough to spot that solitary draw, and to get the other results correct. It would be a fine advertisement for John Bull, and would gloriously upset the cranks.

I have thoroughly settled down as Controller of our Football department, and I am now at home to all my friends, known and unknown. So, when are you coming to see me? Herewith I extend a hearty invitation to my readers to visit me at 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, W.C. I wish to show you how carefully a great competition is conducted. Come along when you like. Do not bother about putting on your Sunday clothes. We are plain, matter-of-fact individuals in our department, an the man in corduroys and a cap will be welcomed as heartily as he who turns up in a tall hat and a monocle. And there is no need to make an appointment.

Every part of our wonderful system will be explained to each visitor. We have everything to gain by such publicity. If you see the checking work being done you will the better realise how perfectly the interest of each and every competitor is safeguarded. What more can I say to induce you to pay me a visit? You will be accorded a hearty welcome, and please understand that you need not come in your swell attire. Be you navvy or millionaire, you will honour me by giving me a call.

Our Football Rhymes have come in nicely in numbers. As to the quality I shall have something to say when I announce the £5 Award. Followers of football are not necessarily poets, but some are budding Laureates.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 7th February, 1914.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team	Last season's result.	JOHN BULL	[illegible] Pioneers.	[illegible] the World.	Weekly Dispatch.	Sunday Chronicle	Competitors' Times.	Sporting Chronicle.	Evening Telegraph.
	Aston Villa v. West Bromwich A.	West Brom. won	Draw	Home	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Home
	Burnley v. Oldham Athletic ..	No match	Home	Draw	Home	[illegible]	Draw	Draw	[illegible]	Home
	Derby County v. Blackburn Rovers	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	[illegible]	Draw	Home
	Liverpool v. Sheffield W.	Liverpool won	Home	Home	[illegible]		Home	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Manchester C. v. Bradford C. ..	Bradford won	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	[illegible]	Home	Home
	Middlesbrough v. Everton.. ..	Draw	Away	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Newcastle United v. Bolton W. ..	Newcastle won	Away	Away	[illegible]	Draw	Away	Home	[illegible]	Home
	Preston North End v. Chelsea ..	No match	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Sheffield United v. Sunderland ..	Sunderland won	Home	Away	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Tottenham H. v. Manchester U...	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	[illegible]	[illegible]	Draw	Home	Home
	Barnsley v. Grimsby Town ..	Barnsley won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bradford v. Glossop	Bradford won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bury v. Woolwich Arsenal ..	No match	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	raw	Home	Draw
	Fulham v. Stockport County ..	Fulham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Huddersfield T. v. Notts Forest ..	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Hull City v. Birmingham.. ..	Birmingham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Leicester Fosse v. Leeds City ..	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Home	Home
	Lincoln City v. Blackpool.. ..	Lincoln won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Notts County v. Clapton Orient ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Wolverhampton W. v. Bristol C...	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bristol Rovers v. Reading.. ..	Reading won	Away	Away	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	[illegible]
	Merthyr Town v. Southampton ..	Draw	Draw	Away	Home		Home	Home	Home	
	West Ham United v. Plymouth A.	W. Ham won	Home	Home	Home	[illegible]	Home	Home	Home	[illegible]
	Swindon Town v. Crystal Palace..	Swindon won	Home	Home	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	Home	Draw
	Cardiff City v. Coventry City ..	No match	Home	[illegible]	Home	Home	Home		Draw	
	Exeter City v. Watford	Exeter won	Home		Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Millwall A. v. Norwich City ..	Millwall won	Home	Home	Home	[illegible]	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Portsmouth v. Gillingham ..	Portsmouth won	Home		Home	Home	Home	[illegible]	Draw	Away
	Brighton & H.A. v. Plymouth ..	Draw	Home	[illegible]	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	[illegible]
	Queen's Park R. v. Southend U. ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	[illegible]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE—SECOND LEAGUE——FIRST LEAGUE—

IF THIS ADVERTISEMENT STRIKES YOUR EYE

and you are interested in football competitions send to address below for full particulars of a

GRAND PRIZE SHOOTING CONTEST

on the 3rd Round of the CUP, Feb. 21st.

☞ This advertisement will not appear after Feb 28th. ☜

Premier Prizes this season have been awarded as follows:—

Sept. 1st Contest (no tens predicted) 14 nines gained £17 17s. 1d.

„ 6th „ (no tens predicted) 38 nines gained £6 11s. 6d.

The above results—no tens for two successive contests—constitute a record for Continental Competitions.

Sept.	13th	Contest	2	tens	gained	£125	0s. 0d.
„	20th	„	5	„	„	50	0 0
„	27th	„	117	„	„	2	2 8
Oct.	4th	„	53	„	„	4	14 4
„	11th	„	8	„	„	21	5 0
„	18th	„	41	„	„	0	1 11
„	25th	„	2	„	„	125	0 0
Nov.	1st	„	5	„	„	50	0 0
„	8th	„	3	„	„	13	6 8
„	15th	„	2	„	„	125	0 0
„	22nd	„	15	„	„	16	13 4
„	29th	„	17	„	„	14	14 1
Dec.	6th	„	10	„	„	25	0 0
„	13th	„	8	„	„	31	5 0
„	20th	„	40 nines (No tens predicted.)		„	6	5 0
„	27th	„	1 ten		„	250	0 0
Jan.	3rd	„	10 tens		„	25	0 0

H. T. TERRY,

"Football World," Geneva, Switzerland

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

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The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.

Send a post card (postage 1d.) for the most liberal price list issued. But no need to wait for coupons, write your commissions on plain paper.

"John Bull" says—Messrs. H. Hamilton & Co. are thoroughly reliable.

Our "Football Annual," containing several new features, will be sent free on mentioning this paper.

Selected Matches for February 7th.

Aston Villa	v. W. B. Albion	Sheffield U.	v. Sunderland
Burnley	v. Oldham	Tottenham H.	v. Manchester U.
Derby C.	v. Blackburn R.	Bury	v. Woolwich A.
Manchester C.	v. Bradford C.	Leicester F.	v. Leeds City
Newcastle U.	v. Bolton W.	Bristol R.	v. Reading
Preston N.E.	v. Chelsea	Clyde	v. Celtic.

Single teams or any combination may be backed.

THE COMPETITOR'S DICTIONARY OF KINDRED WORDS.

Compiled and alphabetically arranged by W. H. STACPOOLE, B.A., LL.D.

Will enable you to find at once all the words that beat about a given meaning. Suggest Ideas for Solutions.

To solvers of book, take for instance the word UNION. While there are scarce[ly] a dozen words synonymous with it, one hundred and thirty-four possible [words] in which are so closely allied to it in meaning as to form [solu]tions in a solution.

172 [pages] 5 x 8in. Post free for One Shilling and Sixpence.

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with a

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Many thousands of readers have written us, highly praising these splendid gold nibbed pens which we are offering to every reader of "John Bull."

CUT OUT THE COUPON NOW

SEE PAGE iii. OF COVER.

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Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following correct numbers have been received:—

Mr. A. G. DYER, 104, Angel Road, Upper Edmonton. January 10th. No. 698,571.

Dr. J. McMURRAY, 161, Wood Street, Walthamstow. January 10th. No. 217,226.

Mr. E. H. EVANS, Knoyle Street, Tirdeunaw, Landore, Swansea. January 17th. No. 611,111.

Mr. GEO. BRETT, 447, Oxford Road, Reading, Berks. January 17th. No. 916,132.

Mr. J. WRIGHT, 79, Park Road, Westhoughton, Lancs. January 17th. No. 636,304.

Mr. R. AYTOWN, Walside, Dalkeith, Midlothian. January 10th. No. 512,200.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of January 31st:—

001996	147954	395708	606269	815748
019360	170242	406574	629168	839650
046220	190485	441429	644523	865262
063080	205116	459568	670403	912382
068928	233037	479470	688919	946811
083440	240146	503162	706412	960100
103622	265783	514614	713431	983118
118421	302362	529059	739650	A001065
119058	354118	552568	755262	A004372
129721	365411	587010	774489	A010384

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on February 11th.)

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